

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Regina Phillips (D3), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Anna Bullett (D4)

Minutes February 14, 2024

Members Present: Councilor Phillips, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Bullett

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Erin Ferrell, Kayley Weeks

Meeting was called to order.

January 10 Minutes

The January 10, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon and Erin Ferrell

The Sustainability Office welcomed a new coworker, Kayley Weeks, an AmeriCorps with the GPCOG Resilience Corps Fellowship. Troy has been involved in a series of grid planning and modernization workshops, led by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, to identify priorities that the utilities must address. Energy Benchmarking reporting season started in January, and Erin is busy assisting building owners to report and help building owners and property managers understand their benchmarking reports and identify actions that can be taken to improve their metrics. Sustainability Office staff are working on reviewing Pesticide Applicator Reports which are due Feb 1 each year under the Landcare Ordinance. A summary report will be shared with the Committee in March. More information on City owned EV charging infrastructure, outreach initiatives, and other office programming can be found in the agenda packet.

Councilor Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilor Phillips asked if we have plans to add more EV charging stations? *Yes we are working to install them in a variety of locations as permitting and infrastructure allows.*

Councillor Bullett asks if there are there incentives for developers to install charging stations when building multi unit properties (with Doherty Field project in mind)? *Our Technical Manual requires a certain number of chargers to be installed if you are planning to build parking. We are also expecting incentives for property developers for multifamily buildings through Efficiency Maine soon.*

Kenwood Street Parking Restrictions

Presented by Troy Moon

Citizen petition asks to lift the time restricted parking limits on Kenwood St near the University of Southern Maine. In accordance with City Code Section 28, City Council has the authority to change parking regulations from time limited or metered to unregulated parking. Residents can

request these changes with support from neighbors via a petition. Parking and Public Works staff that reviewed this request do not oppose the removal of time-limited parking restrictions on Kenwood Street.

Public Comment on Kenwood Street Parking Restrictions

Three residents commented in favor of removing the one hour parking time limit on Kenwood St.

Councilor Comment on Kenwood Street Parking Restrictions

Councilors Pelletier and Bullett both commented in agreement with the public comments. Committee confirmed that the petition is sufficient to move forward with recommendation.

Motion to remove 1 hour parking on Kenwood Street

Moved by Councilor Pelletier and seconded by Councilor Bullett.

Motion to approve the removal of 1 hour parking limits on Kenwood Street

Approved unanimously

Community Resilience Partnership Self Assessment

Presented by Troy Moon

As a member of the Community Resilience Partnership with the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future, we report on our community's progress and share assessments on our approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Our most [recent community vulnerability assessment](#) identifies ten key areas of vulnerability: release of hazardous waste; grid system reliability and business continuity; impact to property values, commercial areas, and tax base; disruption to critical transportation routes; vulnerability of sewer and stormwater critical infrastructure; degradation of ecosystem health due to sea level rise and habitat loss; public health challenges due to unseasonably hot days, extreme heat, as well as extended heat waves; greater need for social services; vulnerability of food systems; and risk of increasing social inequity. These hazards primarily arise from sea level rise and storm surge - both trends we have been tracking and are continuing to monitor, anticipate, zone for, and spread awareness about.

No Public Comment Received

Councilor Comment on the Community Resilience Partnership Self Assessment

Councilor Bullett asked if the island communities are receiving help (federal dollars, FEMA) after the past storms? *Our emergency management coordinator does engage with FEMA and county assistance, but our staff can look into this.*

Councilor Phillips and Councilor Pelletier share appreciation for this presentation and how the City is monitoring and working to ensure that resilience is carried in all conversations.

Committee Discussion regarding Cassidy Point coal pile

Presented by Troy Moon

Members of the public have raised many concerns regarding coal dust emissions from the coal pile that Sprague operates at Merrill Terminal on Cassidy Point. Sprague recently received a new load of coal and dust is blowing off the site. We are encouraging the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to continue communicating with neighborhood groups and Sprague. The Maine DEP's air quality monitors at the site do not indicate any major health impact for those in nearby residential buildings. We also understand that the Maine DEP is encouraging Sprague to institute best-management practices plan to control fugitive dust. Maine DEP staff asked to present to the committee, again in May 2024.

Councilor Comment on the Discussion

Councilor Pelletier notes the challenge in communication between concerned residents and the Maine DEP and is curious if they may be able to elect a representative liaison for community members and Council members on this issue.

Councilor Bullett asked if there are impacts (from the coal dust emissions) for marine life or the waterfront?

Committee Work Plan

Troy Moon maps out the tentative agenda for the next few months of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee session. Topics of interest and priorities of committee members include:

- Reestablishing two-way traffic on State Street and High Street
- Bayside Tree Planting and an update from Forestry and City trees
- Establishing a Sustainability Fund
- Proposing amendments to the Landcare Ordinance (Chapter 34) recommended by Landcare Management Advisory Committee
- Review ongoing work with Climate Resilience Overlay Zoning
- Proposing amendments to the Low Impact Development Ordinances with Water Resources
- BirdSafe Maine Ordinance
- More non-car focused transportation opportunities
- Franklin Street Redesign
- Commercial Street Sea-Level Rise

Motion to Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Bullett. Second by Councilor Pellitier. All adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned