



Legislative Committee Meeting January 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The January 21, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:11 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine.

I. Attendance/Introductions

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor Jill Duson, Mayor Kate Snyder, City Manager Jon Jennings, Dena Libner (staff), Danielle West-Chuhta (Counsel), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur)

II. Legislative Update

Chris Feeney presented a Bernstein Shur memorandum on legislation recently introduced in Augusta for review:

- LD 1788: Committee requested that Bernstein Shur collect additional information and background, including insight from the Maine Municipal Association.
- LD 1860: Committee requested that Bernstein Shur gather additional information from the Portland School Board.
- LD 1888: Committee requested that Troy Moon, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Portland, advise on whether this bill is in keeping with Portland's sustainability objectives.
- LD 1965: Committee recommended ongoing monitoring of the legislation, as well as gathering information from the Portland School District.
- LD 1909: City Manager Jon Jennings indicated staff is supportive of this legislation. Bernstein Shur was asked to advise the City Manager on whether

testimony or a memo in support of the bill will be more effective.

- LD 1916: Councilor Duson requested that insight be collected from the Portland School Board. She voiced concern that the law would allow Portland to effectively gather necessary information from other school districts.
- LD 341: Committee voted to that the Mayor should send a letter of conditional support for the bill, and requested that the letter also include a request for additional information about funding, location, and operations.
- LD 2008: Committee requested that insight from Maine Municipal Association be collected.
- LD 2009: Councilor Duson expressed concern over whether this bill would dilute Portland's voting power on the board of Greater Portland Metro. The Committee requested that Bernstein Shur monitor this bill's progress, and request additional information and insight. City Manager Jon Jennings recommended the Council hold a workshop on Metro funding.
- LD 2019: Committee asked staff to review and provide recommendations.
- LD 2022: Committee asked Bernstein Shur to gather additional information.
- LD 2040: Committee asked Bernstein Shur to monitor the bill's progress. Committee asked staff to advise if there is strong interest in supporting.
- LD 2049: Committee asked staff to review and provide recommendations.
- LD 2056: The Committee agreed that Portland should be included in any planning or development of the FUSE program. Staff would be asked for additional insight.
- LD 1956: Corporation Counsel was asked to review. Committee requested that it be added to the legislative tracking document.
- LD 1645: Committee requested that it be added to the legislative tracking document.
- LD 1084: City Manager Jon Jennings voiced concerns about street congestion. Councilor Duson agreed. Committee agreed to defer to Maine Municipal Association's formal opposition.

- Danielle West-Achuhta briefed the Committee on two pieces of Federal legislation designed to protect community television, as well as collaboration with outside counsel to track and monitor the bills. She brought to the Committee's attention a sign-on letter recommended by outside counsel. The Committee agreed that the Mayor should sign the letter and send to the Federal delegation.

III. Goal Setting

Councilor Ali advised that councilors and staff should continue to bring forward legislative goals and priorities as they arise, and that the Committee would review and take action as appropriate. He requested that Committee staff forward last year's goals for review and consideration.

Councilor Duson requested that the flow chart developed by the Committee in 2019 be shared by email.

IV. Other Business

City Manager Jon Jennings asked Councilor Ali if the Committee may meet in his absence if business needed to be tended to. Councilor Ali agreed.

Councilor Duson asked if the Committee should meet with the delegation in Augusta in March to promote a positive working relationship. The Committee asked staff to ask Bernstein Shur's recommendation.

V. Adjournment

Councilor Ali made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Duson; vote 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.