

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (At Large)

Agenda
November 18, 2020
5:30 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/96133597249>

Webinar ID: 961 3359 7249

1. Meeting Information
Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96133597249> Webinar ID: 961 3359 7249
2. Review and approve minutes from October 21
3. Sustainability Program Updates
 - a. November Updates
4. Review Achievements and Recommendations for Next Year
The committee will review the issues they addressed during 2020 and discuss items to be referred to the 2021 Committee
 - a. 2020 Review
5. Other Business

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation

Chair Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2)

Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)

Councilor Jill Dunson (At large)

Draft Minutes October 21, 2020

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Council Ray, Councilor Duseon

Staff Present: Dena Libner, Troy Moon, John Peverada, Gene Pierotti

Meeting called to order.

September Minutes

September meeting minutes approved by Councilor Ray and seconded by Councilor Duseon.

Passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sustainability Update

Sustainability Associate, Ashley Krulik, left her position to take the Sustainability Coordinator position in Falmouth. Portland and South Portland staff hosting two One Climate Future workshops. The City Council will vote whether to adopt the OCF plan on Nov 9. Straw ordinance goes fully into effect Jan 1 and the State plastic bag ban in effect Jan 15. We are working on outreach campaign for both. We continue to participate in a PUC docket to determine ownership of some underground utilities related to streetlights. The City Manager signed a contract with ENGIE Impact to manage utility payments and create dashboards for energy accounts. This will help us update Committee with reports and data. We have been helping the community comply with pesticide ordinance. The Portland PMAC is following the development of the fertilizer ordinance in South Portland and will be providing recommendations to the Sustainability and Transportation next spring. The new EV chargers in front of City Hall and in Payson Park are installed and operational. We continue to use social media to engage community.

As part of the pesticide ordinance, the Riverside Golf Course was asked to achieve Certified Audubon Sanctuary status. Gene Pierotti reports that after three years work, have officially met all standards and passed all categories to become certified. Even surpassed standards through use of nesting boxes, beehives, etc. Already using mostly organic fertilizers. Certified for 3 years and then recertification with Audubon International.

Councilor Ray asks if anyone working on Green New Deal referendum approached the Sustainability Office about One Climate Future. They did not.

Councilor Thibodeau asks about the Western Prom lights that are out. There is a wire issue they are aware of.

Linden Street Parking Petition

Linden Street in D3 with 11 residential units, 24 ft width, short length. Petition to prohibit parking on the west side of street due to narrowness. Exceeds threshold of 60% of households signing petition. Staff supports proposal.

Councilor Duson concerned that everyone be made aware of the petition. Dena Libner confirms that all residents of street were made aware of this meeting.

Councilor Ray wants confirmation of current parking rules on street. Dena and John confirm no current limitation.

Public Comment for Linden St Petition

Beth Stickney of 17 Linden St voices support. Says both side parking has been chronic problem. Voices concern for emergency vehicles having to go around the block. Problem got worse with Sierra Club moving into JCA building. Sometimes people can't back up from driveways. Wonders if there could be police enforcement if this passes.

Councilor Thibodeau points to John Peverada as point of contact. John confirms that it would be enforced through notices first week and tickets the following.

Justin Van Soust of the corner of Linden and Longfellow St. echoes Beth's concerns for safety. Reemphasizes his formal statement.

Councilor Questions for Linden St Petition

Councilor Ray moves to pass the parking petition, and Councilor Duson seconds.

Councilor Ray asks John Peverada what to do if community members see newly prohibited parking. John says to call the office.

The Linden St parking petition passes unanimously, 3-0.

Waverly Street Parking Petition

Waverly is a residential cross street with width of 30 feet, 26 households or businesses. Petition to change Waverly St to 1-hour parking on both side due to short supply of parking spaces. Includes signatures from 60% of households and/or businesses on Waverly. Note, Waverly in established residential parking zone in which those with permit would be exempt from this change.

Public Comment for Waverly St Petition

Stephanie Walsh, Board Treasurer of Children's Center on corner of Stevens and Waverly St, speaks on behalf of executive director and board. Don't believe 1-hour parking will solve the issue. Wish instead for one-way parking. Winter is hard for two side parking with snow banks. Have staff members who use Waverly for parking. Otherwise, must park far away from work. Have failed to improve parking capacity through other measures. Request that if this motion is

passed, employees be given similar residential permittance to overcome 1-hour restriction. Request that if passed, the 15-minute parking remain the same for child drop-off.

Amanda of 41 Waverly St says street has become dangerous with UNE students using it as a parking lot. Initiated this petition. Surrounding streets have restrictions, making this street more vulnerable. Continue to have problems with incorrect parking blocking her in the driveway. Does not want to alienate the Children's Center. Simply wants a discussion started.

Paul of 21 Waverly St signed the petition. Thinks 1-hour parking may help. But believes that single side parking is a better solution. Has had problems with deliveries. Believes it is dangerous, especially in winter. Curious if the petition process would need to be fully repeated in order to pass a single side parking petition.

Rob of 43 Waverly St has encountered UNE students parking and blocking cars from leaving driveway. Has had problems with deliveries. Echoes neighbors' input that they are open to other solutions. Agrees that single side parking may be a good solution.

Councilor Questions for Waverly St Petition

Councilor Thibodeau addresses whether council can move a different solution than what is petitioned. Believes he cannot. Troy Moon voices similar understanding of the process, which would require another petition with new signatures.

Councilor Thibodeau addresses whether the Children Center's 15-minute parking spaces will remain. John Peverada voices that these 15-minute spaces are on Stevens, not Waverly, and so will remain unchanged.

Councilor Ray voices need for consistency and clarity with petitions. Interprets petition as replacing 15-minute spaces with 1-hour parking. Believes Committee does have power to change wording of petition, though might be unwise. Would like a standard petition format to be updated. Voices confusion between petition of public comments.

Councilor Thibodeau and Councilor Ray agree to bring back Amanda, the petitioner, to clear up the purpose of the petition and resolve confusion.

Amanda agrees with Councilor Ray that the issue is that people, UNE students, are parking on both sides of the street all day making it dangerous to drive and back up, not that she or the other residents necessarily lack spaces to park their cars since they have driveways.

Councilor Ray does not believe 1-hour parking is the right solution for the problem. Wants city staff to evaluate whether it is actually dangerous and give recommendation.

John Peverada provides history for Waverly St. Originally opted to not be time-restricted parking. Does get narrow in winter. Recently, does not allow parking between 11 PM and 7 AM

in winter so that City Works can narrow the street. Voices that if single side parking is implemented, it may put extra burden on parts of the street that are currently unburdened.

Councilor Thibodeau questions the possibility of single side parking for winter months, only.

Councilor Duson would like to postpone to give the Commissioner time to review, talk to the residents, talk to the petitioners if this is a valid next step.

Dena Libner explains that in survey taken in Fall 2016 or 2017, less than 50% of Waverly St residents marked that they wanted parking restrictions. However, of those who did, the majority wanted single side parking.

Councilor Thibodeau asks two questions:

- 1) Does it make sense to match the surrounding streets with their restrictions?
- 2) In addition, does there need to be other changes to the street?

Councilor Ray asks John Peverada for specific restrictions on streets surrounding Waverly.

Poland St—parking on one side, no parking other, 1-hour for majority of street.
Elmore St—1-hour parking on both sides.

John Peverada says may be more competition with one side parking, so 1-hour restriction may be necessary on top. Both will probably keep road very clear and driving will be easier.

Councilor Ray would like to postpone the petition decision until next meeting and John's update. Let community members know about second meeting.

Councilor Thibodeau does not want to set precedent of postponement.

Councilor Duson says yes to petition in hopes to enact fairness between competing streets and allow for other methods other than strict petitioning to enact further adjustments.

John Peverada agrees with Councilor Duson. One-hour parking will be needed regardless of other additional restrictions. Parking bans on one side or both is really a question for Jeremiah and further analysis.

Dena Libner says there is no crash data that mandates a parking restriction or ban.

Councilor Ray is inclined to say no and come up with the right solution. Ask staff to come back with different/better recommendation.

John Peverada reiterates that the 1-hour parking will probably be part of any solution. Adds that 1-hour parking on both sides may negate any additional restrictions.

Councilor Ray motions to vote on the petition. Councilor Duson seconds.

The Waverly St Parking Petition passes unanimously, with the amendment that any 15-minute parking spaces remain as is, 3-0.

Meeting Conclusion and Next Steps

Committee members to make list of items that were missed during this meeting to table for next, as well as items for next year for the next committee.

On request of Councilor Ray, Troy Moon agrees to send list of this year's items for review.

Troy will send slides on One Climate Future financing, since the item was not covered tonight. Further info will be covered at the workshop.

Councilor Ray motions to adjourn. Councilor Duson seconds. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.



CITY OF PORTLAND

Sustainability Office

Troy Moon

Sustainability Director

November Sustainability Updates

One Climate Future

The City Council adopted the One Climate Future plan during their meeting on November 9. There have been several good stories in the local media covering the plan and positive feedback from the public. The OCF team is holding a public workshop on Thursday, November 19 for people interested in learning more about it. Register at www.oneclimatefuture.org.

EV Charging

We have installed an EV charging station in front of City Hall and another in Payson Park. Both are operational and ready to use. We're planning additional installations around the City.

Compost Pilot

We'll be collaborating with the Mitchell Institute of the University of Maine and the Maine DEP to offer a composting pilot program. Residents will be able to drop off their food waste at Riverside Recycling and we'll produce educational materials about composting diverting food scraps from the waste stream. More details will be forthcoming as we iron out the details.

Climate Vulnerability Story Mapping

We'll be collaborating with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to develop a citizen science program to help identify and monitor areas in Portland that are vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise. Residents will be able to suggest locations to monitor and will be able to document and submit flooding events for inclusion in a publically accessible map. Our GIS team will be helping us implement the program and will be using the data as part of their hazard mapping efforts.

Staffing

On Thursday, November 12 we welcomed Casey Zorn. She is a full time Resilience Corp member who will be working with us for the next year. She is a recent graduate of Tufts where she was a double major in English and Environmental Engineering. Her communications skills coupled with her technical knowledge will make her a great asset to our team.



CITY OF PORTLAND

Sustainability Office

Troy Moon

Sustainability Director

To: Councilor Thibodeau and members of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee

Re: Sustainability and Transportation Committee Accomplishments in 2020

Date: November 13, 2020

The Sustainability and Transportation Committee had a very productive year despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic and reduced staff hours from the related budget shortfalls. Some of the key accomplishments include:

Dogs in Baxter Woods -- The Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department recommended changes to the City's off leash dog ordinance to restrict off leash dog access in Baxter Woods in order to improve wildlife habitat and improve access for park users without dogs. The Committee devoted two meetings to receiving input from park users and staff. During a third meeting, the Committee deliberated and voted to endorse the restrictions recommended by staff.

PMAC -- The Committee received the first report from the Pesticide Management Advisory Committee about the City's pesticide ordinance.

Portland Transportation Center -- The Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation attended a meeting to update the Committee about the proposal to move the Portland Transportation Center in order to improve the Downeaster's northbound service. The Committee members provided feedback and recommendations to the Commissioner.

Air Quality -- The Committee heard from staff from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Center for Disease Control regarding air quality complaints. With Committee support, staff worked with both agencies to improve air quality monitoring along the waterfront. Staff also created a See Click Fix category to monitor air quality complaints and began providing the data to the DEP.

Parking -- the Committee discussed a number of parking issues. This included time limited residential parking and three petitions from the public to amend parking restrictions on certain streets.

Commercial Street Operations Plan -- staff presented an update on plans to improve the overall performance of Commercial Street for all users. Unfortunately, the pandemic disrupted opportunities to implement the recommendations this summer.

Heritage Tree Ordinance -- the Committee spent considerable time reviewing drafts of a proposed heritage tree ordinance to protect the important ecological and social resources provided by large trees. The Committee recommended an ordinance to the full City Council that protects large trees in historic districts and created a trust to collect fees from individuals that received a permit to remove a protected tree. The Committee stated that this should be a preliminary step toward protecting trees across the city.

One Climate Future -- The Committee endorsed the One Climate Future climate action and adaptation plan created in collaboration with the City of South Portland that is designed to meet the City's climate and resilience goals. This was the culmination of nearly two years of work and guidance from the Committee members

As the Council year concludes, several items on the Committee's work plan remain that could be considered by next year's Committee members. These include:

Fertilizer Ordinance -- The original charge of the Pesticide and Fertilizer Task Force was to recommend an ordinance to regulate the use of both pesticides and fertilizers. The group realized that the issues required bifurcation and advanced the pesticide ordinance by itself with the recommendation that the Sustainability and Transportation review a stand alone fertilizer ordinance in the future. The City of South Portland has adopted a fertilizer ordinance that could serve as a model for a similar ordinance in Portland. The Pesticide Management Advisory Committee has been reviewing this ordinance and intends to make a recommendation to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee in the annual report they will file in the Spring of 2021.

Single Use Plastics -- During previous discussions about regulating plastics, the Committee chose to advance an ordinance to restrict the use of plastic straws. This ordinance goes into full effect in January, 2021. The Committee intended to discuss further regulating single use plastic items such as cutlery and other disposable items and could take this up next year.

Sidewalk Material Policy -- The Committee wished to discuss the policy that determines which sidewalks should be constructed of brick, concrete, or asphalt.

Green Building Policy -- The Committee had wished to take up improvements to the Green Building ordinance in order to make it apply to more buildings and improve the energy performance standard. One Climate Future notes that emissions from buildings contribute about 60% of the carbon emissions from Portland so improving performance of buildings is essential to meeting our climate objectives. During 2021 the Committee might consider reviewing several policies to enhance building performance:

1. Adopt the voluntary energy “stretch” code currently under development by the MUBEC board. The Maine Legislature mandated the creation of this code so progressive communities could adopt a building code with higher energy performance standards than those included in the MUBEC. (The Portland City Council had endorsed this and asked staff to testify in favor of it.)
2. Consider adopting a requirement that homeowners disclose a Home Energy Score at the time sale in order to provide prospective home buyers with an understanding of future energy costs. The US Department of Energy developed this program that works similarly to the MPG sticker on a new vehicle. Unlike other ratings systems, this one examines a small number of key metrics and is not expensive or burdensome to obtain. Cities such as Portland, OR and Berkeley, CA have implemented this very successfully and have found that homes with higher energy efficiency scores are more attractive to home buyers. More information:
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/what-home-energy-score>

Resilience Overlay -- The Committee had previously discussed a resilience overlay zone proposed by the Sustainability Office and the Planning Department to set performance standards for buildings constructed in areas of the City of Portland vulnerable to flooding related to sea level rise and/or storm surge. One Climate Future contains extensive discussion of this concept that will require further consideration by the Sustainability and Transportation Committee as well as the Planning Board.