

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE  
SOUTH PORTLAND ENERGY & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2014

So. Portland Community Center  
Large Conference Room

Call to order - 6:00pm.

**Committee**

- Bob Foster - At Large (Beecher) Chair - **Present**
- Jessica Williams - At Large (Blake) Secretary - **Present**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - **Present**
- Todd Erickson - District 2 - **Absent**
- Stanley Cox - District 3 - **Absent**
- Heather Valley - District 4 - **Absent**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 - **Present**
- Vacant - Associate - At Large (Beecher)
- David Domingos - Associate - At Large (Blake) - **Absent**
- Melinda Timpf - Associate - District 1 - **Present**
- Mike Howe - Associate - District 2 - **Present**
- Julie Silverman - Associate - District 3 - **Present**
- Eric Knutsen - Associate - District 4 - **Absent**
- Alisia Ives - Associate - District 5 - **Present**
- Doug Howard - City Liaison - **Absent**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison

**Old Business:**

- Acceptance of April's minutes - **Motion to accept April Minutes (Mike Howe) Seconded - Jessica Williams**

**Garbage to Garden Presentation**

Two members of Garbage to Garden were present to update the committee on the organization's work. The pilot program at South Portland High School has resulted in 9.1 tons of food waste composted since January 1, 2014. This has resulted in \$803.53 in tipping fee savings. The cost of the program to the High School is approximately \$250/month. Garbage to Garden is in the process of implementing pilot programs in other towns from the Elementary School level up. How can Garbage to Garden get into other South Portland Schools. This usually has to be initiated from within the individual schools. Either a teacher or ecology club, for example can contact Garbage to Garden to discuss possibilities and feasibility. We were also informed that while Garbage to Garden is reaching capacity with regard to its service radius, density of service within

that radius could certainly increase. They are not even close to capacity with regard to the volume of food waste they could collect.

- Willard Fest participation - Update

**Willard Fest will be held on Saturday, July 12th from 3-6pm. Rain date is Sunday, July 13th from 3-6pm. The ERC will be helping to coordinate trash, recycling and compost at the Fest. Returnables will be donated to the Dora L. Small Elementary School PTA Clynk account. There will be approximately 5 stations each with trash, compost and recycling bins. We will need 1 or 2 volunteers to man those 5 stations for 1 hour shifts for the duration of the Fest. The ERC will also have a booth at the Fest with educational materials about trash, recycling and composting as well as information about energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction.**

- Communications/Public Relations - Jessica

**ERC Update to the City Newsletter: Jessica Williams will create a monthly update to be inserted into the City of South Portland Newsletter which will include highlights of the committee's activities and information about energy and recycling issues. This update will be emailed to the entire committee for comment and approval before Jessica submits it to Sue Mooney (City Clerk) who will then include it in the City newsletter. Sue has also created a sidebar on the ERC page on the City website for these updates.**

- Business Development (Events/outreach)
- School Department - Outreach/update
- 'City Minute' with Doug Howard .

### **'Green Minute'**

#### **Membership Report and Updates:**

- Introduction to new member(s) + volunteers

#### **New Business: Bring fresh ideas**

- Joint venture with Conservation Committee?

**Bob updated us on the possibility of working with the Conservation Commission on a plastic bag initiative. We will have more information on this at a later date. The ERC hopes to have a donation of reusable shopping bags to hand out at Willard Fest.**

**Bob and Alisia presented a condensed version of the "Powers and Duties" of the committee. The committee will review and discuss these in more depth at the next meeting.**

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- P/R, media, and education outreach plans
- Open Forum:

**Motion to adjourn (Rita Thompson) Seconded (Mike Howe)**

**Adjournment - 7:55pm**

**Next meeting: Wed., June 18, 2014 - Large Conference Room**