

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE, CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 26, 2025

Time: 6:30 — 8:30 PM

Location: Conference Room A City Hall

Committee Members in Attendance: Bill Lyons, Nancy Clayburgh, Jessica Blasko, Josh Denton, Bert Cohen, Fred Calcinari, Colleen Spear, (via Zoom), Effie Malley, Torey Brooks

Excused Absences: Rhianne Tallarico

Staff in Attendance: Kate Homet, Kristin Shaw (via Zoom)

Guests in Attendance: Tyler Garzo, Marta Hurgin

Facilitator: Nancy Clayburgh

Minutes: Josh Denton

Agenda

1. **Acceptance of minutes from May 22, 2025**
2. **Portsmouth Middle School 8th Grade Solar Projects – referred by City Council**
3. **Community Engagement**
4. **Climate Conversations Update**
5. **CAP spreadsheet – discussion about roles**
6. **NHCAP participation opportunities**
7. **City Council parking discussions**
8. **Other Committee business**
9. **Intro to Volunteer Handbook**
10. **Meeting absences**
11. **EV school bus speaker**
12. **Climate future postcard**

Topic	Notes	Votes / Actions
Acceptance of Minutes	Motion made to accept May 2025 minutes.	Vote: May 2025 minutes accepted.
Portsmouth Middle School 8th Grade Solar Projects	Decided to postpone a month so committee could review 6 proposals. Also discussed committee writing letter to class and City Council reporting back. Junior student (Emily W.) is interested in joining the committee this summer.	Actions: invite teachers Chris Rose, Nicole Longmeadow, and any possible students to participate in July's meeting.

Community Conversation / Engagement Update	<p>Climate Conversations Update - Thursday, July 31, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, at library (Bright Action Community Conversation and CAP). Climate Action Plan & Master Plan discussion can be in the fall.</p> <p>Farmers Market will be doing Eco-July throughout all of July, 8:00-12:00.</p> <p>Jess is committee liaison to Portsmouth Master Plan, should committee want to provide input.</p> <p>Colleen is working on list to define relationships with stakeholders.</p>	Kate will try to make meeting available via Zoom and attend the second Portsmouth Climate Action in July. Jess will have a table representing Seacoast Climate Action Now on July 19.
Spreadsheet Update	<p>Effie discussed having a living document, but unfortunately would be considered a quorum, so instead discussed just giving Effie ability to edit.</p> <p>Bill updated transportation section.</p> <p>Fred gave update on EV chargers and Josh spoke about previous efforts with EV chargers and RFP for City to electrify fleet.</p> <p>Electric School Bus Fleet Update from Nancy on Concord receiving \$1M from EPA which is being spent on 3 school buses and chargers.</p> <p>Adoption of new zoning for private solar arrays was discussed by Effie and Fred with Sol Smart, Planning Department, and Councilor Cook. Amendments will be presented to Planning Board.</p> <p>Removing Water Runoff Enterprise Fund was discussed due to court litigation.</p> <p>Jess spoke about working with Rhianne about developing zero waste plan. Meeting with Dover to discuss what they have done. Met with Health Department.</p>	

	<p>Having a green criteria for option for residents to reference when adding items to the CIP.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions inventory was discussed.</p> <p>Watched City Council Discussion on EV Charger CIP funding going towards Jones Ave landfill solar</p>	Colleen and Torey will meet to discuss green building development.
NHCAP participation opportunities	No updates	None
City Council parking discussions	Bill gave summary of 15-minute free parking debate in front of the city council and asked should the committee play a role like other committees have due to negative sustainable impacts.	<p>Josh will raise committees concerns considering sustainability issues with these types of conversations.</p> <p>Moved to next month.</p>
Intro to Volunteer Handbook		Moved to next month.
Meeting absences		Moved to next month.
EV school bus speaker		Moved to next month.
Climate future postcard		Moved to next month.