

Sustainability Committee for the City of Portsmouth NH - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 25, 2026 Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM Location: Municipal Complex, Conference Room A	Facilitator: Bill Lyons, Fred Calcinari Recorder: Rhianne Tallarico	Next Meeting Date: July 23, 2026 Facilitator: Bill Lyons, Fred Calcinari Recorder: Rhianne Tallarico
Committee Members Present: Bert Cohen, Colleen Spear, Bill Lyons, Fred Calcinari, Effie Malley, Councilor Annie Hopkins (Zoom), Jess Blasko (Zoom)		
Committee Members with Excused Absence: Nancy Clayburgh		
Committee Members Absent:		
Meeting Guests: Kate Homet (City Staff), Tracey Cameron, Tyler Garzo, Wendi Slip		
Meeting Recording URL: --		

Agenda Item	Discussion	Motions/Decisions/Follow-up/Action Items	Key Person
1. Acceptance of April Minutes	- Committee voted to accept April minutes with edit noted below - Need correction to Effie's last name	Vote: Accept minutes with noted edit. Action: Kate to distribute informal May minutes.	Kate
2. Community Build - Window Dressers	- Tracey Cameron visited to recruit volunteers for upcoming Window Dressers event - The organization builds custom window inserts for people's homes that reduce	--	--

	energy use and energy costs ■ Looking for 2-3 volunteers to help with outreach and/or take measurements within homes ○ Date TBD, likely Jan or Feb 2027 ○ If interested, reach out to Tracey at traceyscameron@proton.me ○ Committee agreed to broadcast event to Seacoast CAN and city newsletter once date is confirmed		
3. Committee Organization	● New member, Marta, has been appointed ● Potential means of recruitment: ○ Reach out to contacts who used Bright Action ○ Broadcast on Portsmouth Listens ● Ideally, committee would have representation across Portsmouth neighborhoods and topic areas (ex. housing, public health and energy) ● Recruitment could be a committee project	Action: Kate to distribute AI campaign recruitment to committee.	Kate
4. Complete Discussion of 2026 Priorities	● Committee discussed the potential projects with objective of finalizing the 2026 priorities ○ Multimodal Project ■ Needs advocacy (ongoing activity, not a project) and creation of a task force by October (project) ■ This is inclusive of walking, biking, public transportation, etc. ■ Bill volunteered to lead, Colleen and Tyler volunteered to support ○ Car Free Challenge ■ Councilor Hopkins volunteered to	Action: Kate invite UNH fellow to speak on GHD inventory. Action: Kate share link to heat resilience survey with committee. All: Project Plan for Execution.	Kate, All

	lead, Fred volunteered to support ○ RFP for Electrification of the City Fleet ■ This is not in the city's budget, would want put this back in the CIP as a project (Sept 2026) and continue to advocate for it in the following year to be included in the budget ■ Kate volunteered to lead ○ Feasibility & capacity study of all city-owned properties for solar ■ Monitor, may become project in the future ■ Councilor Hopkins volunteered to monitor the budget ○ GHD Inventory ■ A UNH fellow started working with the city last week to gather data for 2025 calendar year ○ Zero Waste Project ■ CIP proposal to get RFP for zero waste consultant ■ Effie volunteered to lead, Rhianne, Colleen and Jess volunteered to support ■ Next step: meet with Peter Rice ○ Coastal Resilience Zone ■ Not a committee project this year ○ Stakeholder Engagement Strategy ■ Colleen volunteered to lead, Bert volunteered to support ○ Electric School Bus Funding ■ Fred to support in the background ○ Heat Resilience Study ■ Need help spreading word to residents, need volunteer to table at ■ This could be a good community		
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	- conversation topic ■ Next step: Send committee survey link to share ○ Partnering with PEAC ■ Monitoring and advocacy, not a 2026 priority project ● Next steps: Populate project plan for execution		
Community Power	● New Community Power rates will be published in July	--	--
Community Engagement	● Kate presented on Heat Resilience at Market Square Day ○ Educated community members on heat resilience and solutions ○ Some community members expressed concern over (tax) costs ○ In reality, there are very low cost solutions (paint sidewalks white, signage to cool spaces, installing water fountains, etc.)	--	--
Updates	● Energy Advisory Committee ○ <i>See earlier Community Power update</i> ○ Working with DPW on heading solar capacity to city buildings ● Master Plan ○ Working on public engagement ● Resident Parking Pilot ○ Approved, and starts July 1, 2026 ● Blue Ribbon Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Action: Kate to share John's email with the committee. Action: Councilor Hopkins to talk to the City Council about Biofuel. Action: Jess to invite Susan Richmond to speak at the August meeting.	Kate, Councilor Hopkins, Jess

	○ Committee meets first Thursday evening of every month ● Biofuel Speaker ○ Colleen reached out to John with specific questions that can be emailed to the committee ○ Next steps ■ Talk to the school board? Talk to COAST? ● Councilor Hopkins offered to speak to the City Council about this, with emphasis that it is a phase prior to electrification of the fleet ● Plastic and Waste ○ Susan Richmond, an expert on plastics and waste, is interested in speaking with the Committee ■ Jess to invite Susan to speak at August meeting ■ Next meeting: What specific topics are we interested in her speaking on? ● Zero Waste Plan (2026 Committee Priority) ● NH Climate Action Plan ○ Update from Kurt Y. that things are delayed		
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Items for Next Month's Agenda:

- Identify specific topics for Susan Richmond to speak on
- 2026 Project Updates