

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (A/L)

Minutes
September 20, 2017

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Duson
Other Councilors Present: Mayor Ethan Strimling
Staff Present: Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam

Councilor Ray makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Duson. All in favor, 3-0.

Sustainability Updates:

Street Lights – Staff is working closely with TEN Connected Solutions to develop the street light and smart city project. This item will be going to the Finance Committee on September 21, 2017 to discuss the details. The savings from the project will be significant and the conversion to LED streetlights will reduce electrical consumption by about 3 million kWh annually. We anticipate the entire project to occur in two phases over two years.

Ocean Avenue Solar - Staff continues to work with Maine DEP on the landfill construction project that needs to be complete before the solar panels can be installed.

Recycling Carts – The cart program is going well. It will take a while for everyone to get used to them. The committee asked for data during an October meeting.

Discuss Draft Pesticide Ordinance

Troy Moon distributed a memo regarding the cost implications to the committee members that the City Manager had asked staff to present to the committee. The memo was an estimate of financial and personnel resources that would be required to implement the ordinance if it were adopted in its current form. The conclusion was that if the committee considers the draft pesticide ordinance in its current form, it will require investment of considerable resources that are not currently available. If the committee recommends and the council adopts this ordinance; we will need to request these resources in the FY18 budget.

Councilor Thibodeau asked if South Portland has a half-time employee. Troy responded that South Portland is currently in the process of hiring someone. They also have a budget of \$25,000 for educational training.

Councilor Ray mentioned that there is still time for us to think about and see how South Portland is doing and what we should expect.

Councilor Duson said it looks like it would be 54 hours for 7 months for a staff person. Troy responded that is outside of the education proponent the staff would need to do. We would need \$25,000 for start-up costs (incidental expenses for materials). Councilor Ray also asked if grant funding is available to help keep funding down and also help from interns. Councilor Duson suggested that maybe an re-organizational task and work functions would be needed to see if there is anyone currently who could do this. Councilor Thibodeau suggested that the committee could draft a memo for the finance committee requesting funding that might be necessary to implement the ordinance if it is passed.

The Committee continued to work on the wording of the draft pesticide ordinance. Some items that were discussed were the waiver process. Troy mentioned that Danielle West-Chuhta, Corporation Counsel, is concerned that the ordinance provide enough time for the process. Administratively, there needs to be time to accept a waiver, hear it, and act on it. This would be a public meeting so it would need to be proper notice.

Councilor Ray suggested leaving it at 5 days and let's see how it works at South Portland and then we can make an amendment. In the season, could have standing meeting times and if there are no waivers, the meeting could be canceled. Waivers are for emergencies and not for all the time. Councilor Thibodeau agreed with Councilor Ray.

The PMAC committee will set a schedule of meetings for the waiver subcommittee. There should be a balance on the PMAC to include someone with an organic background.

Councilor Duson emphasized the need to add a disclosure of use by the city on any pesticide use. This should be part of the annual report.

Councilor Ray suggested that signs posted for notification of a treatment should be easily read for the duration of their placement.

Review of Work Plan

The committee looked over the work plan for the year and discussed items to work on for the next few months.

Motion was made by Councilor Duson to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor. 3-0.