

## Falmouth Green Ribbon Commission Minutes

July 11, 2008 Meeting

6:30 social ½ hour (refreshments by Claudia, thank you Claudia!)

7:00 meeting

Attending: Mel Dickenson, Jed Wright, Glen Brand, Michael Morrison, Mike Draper, Bob Welch, Paul Weiss (Cumberland Cool Cities), Brian Milliken, Sharon Hickey (Yarmouth Energy Savers, Ann Goggin, Craig Baranowski, Dee.

Mel – Open space committee received grant from LMF for central Falmouth (300-400 acres).

Ann welcomed Sharon Hickey from Yarmouth and Paul Weiss from Cumberland.

### **Communications**

Ann – we will continue to use e-mail invite to schedule meetings.

Ann - Purpose of group is to make recommendation to town on how we can meet challenge of US Mayors Climate Agreement. Town manager has said that we can not have own website. Town manager has taken position that online forum (blog) would violate laws. We have registered domain [www.thegreencoast.net](http://www.thegreencoast.net). Hope is to develop tool for other communities (Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth). Draft of an online blog has been created.

Michael – asked what was the basis for the town’s resistance

Ann - Town attorney feels that an on-line blog violates the Freedom of Information act. ACG feels that since it is open to the public that it doesn’t violate the spirit of the FOIA.

Michael and Jed demo-ed the Green Coast blog. The blog will be modified to a page that says “This blog is not yet live – please check back later”.

### **Working with other communities**

Ann – Each community is facing similar issues even with local political realities. We shouldn’t merge groups, but we should figure out how to work together and share information and experiences. Need common web site.

Sharon – Yarmouth Energy Savers (less than 10 members) was formed in November 2007. Directive from town was to make recommendations to town to figure out how to implement Cool Cities. Focus was on helping town to save money. Energy audits have been performed on town buildings (walk through energy audits conducted by consultant.) The town has provided funding to implement recommendations in audit. Presentation on home energy audits in September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Group meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at town office. Schools are doing their own energy audits.

Group has put together list of things they would like to undertake including a more far-reaching plan.

Paul –Cool Cumberland Committee. Town council agreed to make a committee. Council member (Alex Kimball) sits in on the meeting. First meetings were difficult as there was no official charter for the group. Goals including saving the town energy, saving money, and reduction in the carbon emission of Cumberland. No target has been established. GPCOG has joined and this may provide member communities with access. Audit has been undertaken on all town buildings and facilities (outside of school). Finance committee staff is on group and this is very useful for obtaining information. As soon as ICLEI software is obtained the group will plug in numbers. Next step is to get school energy information (buses, etc.). Plan going forward is that emissions inventory to be completed by fall 2008. Group also wants to work immediately on areas they can address. Energy proposal was submitted for Met tower from UMAINE. Group will be getting page on town website. Meetings are held monthly. Agree we are similar sized town don't want to reinvent the wheel. Need to collaborate and come together on issues like regional transportation, recycling, purchasing. Will present idea of Greencoast to group. Makes sense to share technical expertise.

### **Emissions Inventory**

Claudia – handed out Energy Efficiency for Municipal Operations.

### **Organizational Framework**

Jed and Glen presented structure. Agreed at last meeting to organize by issue groups. Jed and Glen recommending four issue groups. Glen noted that they neglected to include completing the emissions inventory. We will need people to work on Emissions Inventory group. Should divide into groups and set timeline. Motion to discuss.

Claudia – Waste reduction and recycling may already have been addressed.

Glen – recycling is a symptom of failure.

Michael – Emissions group should be added. Inventory group could become monitoring. Make writing down the road.

Mike – let's be flexible.

Bruce – add Emissions

Question – Motion was made to add fifth group Emissions Inventory. Approved unanimously.

Question – motion was made to approve 6 workgroups. Approved unanimously.

Commissioners selected workgroups as follows:

- 1) Communications - Mel, Claudia, Michael, Jed
- 2) Emissions Inventory, Dee, Bruce, Claudia
- 3) Energy Efficiency – Bruce, Mike, Michael, Jed, Phil and Bill
- 4) Transportation and Land Use – Claudia, Glen, Robert
- 5) Waste Reduction and recycling – Dee, Glen
- 6) Renewable Energy – Mike, Brian, Robert, Craig, Robert

We need to coordinate with existing Town committees.

Glen – Made a motion to accept initial activities that appeared in the proposal. Accepted unanimously. No recommendations for date were proposed by Jed and Glen.

Ann – difficult to schedule meetings in the summer. Recommended that we set as next milestone September 4th for groups to make initial report.

Glen - Reports should be written.

Ann – will coordinate until September meeting. Will provide memo on protocol instructions. Send Ann an update on meeting of workgroups so that others can participate.

Jed – will send Cambridge, MA's guiding principles so that all are working on same framework.

Paul invited members outside to see Maine's first, maybe only electric scooter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.