

June 12, 2008

Green Ribbon Commission

Last Meeting Minutes', Barb DiBiase Leave

Minutes from 12Jun08 and 19Jun08 were discussed and approved

Barb DiBiase informed the Commission members that she would be taking a Leave of Absence for six weeks or so. Mike McDade can help with website coordination; Nathan Poore will continue to focus on the Commission efforts as well and can provide help. Randy Davis can also help with Town energy items; the Town Energy / Emission inventory should be complete by the end of July. Claudia King will be able to present initial inventory results for town and community by end of July.

Conducted quick introductions and with 30 sec vignettes on each Commission member

It was also mentioned the State Representative John Brautigam, although not able to attend as of yet, maintained keen interest in the Commission's activities and would participate in future efforts.

Communications

Further discussion, in addition to those of prior Meetings, of the Commission's communication strategies were held. Important items reviewed, discussed, and acted upon were;

Sharing of information / material among Commission members

- Members would like to establish a Blog for the exchange of key topics, general communications, meeting dates and other information. They agreed it should be open to the Public. There would likely be a Registration for Blog participants and the possibility of limiting access to Falmouth residents was discussed.
- The Blog would have an appointed Moderator.
- Commission members again reviewed the Town Charter requirements with the objective of attaining a clear, efficient communications tool

Jed Wright agreed to begin work to establish a Blog. He would use the experience & work of close associates with that effort. The idea would be for Mr. Wright to come up with a Draft format and content for Presentation to the Commission Members for review in a reasonable amount of time (mid-July)

Energy Presentation

Mr. Hastings completed a review / discussion of the developing Supply & Demand situation for Oil, Natural Gas, and related Products. Highlights included mounting evidence that oil supply has, or is near, peak, and that many countries have a rapidly increasing demand for oil resulting in a separation between supply and demand giving rise to recent price increases. Maine is in a good position with respect to natural gas, sitting between Canaport and the Northeast gateway and with a main gas pipeline traversing the state. No further LNG ports or conventional electric plants are warranted in Maine. High as it is, the price of gasoline in the U.S. is low relative to the rest of the world. The U.S. uses 25% of the world's oil and has recently increased by about 1% per year. China, while using much less per capita, is increasing at 7% per year.

Task Structure

Mr. Wright and Mr. Brand each reviewed their work on options surrounding Task Assignment. The Commission Members also reviewed and discussed the structure, content, and formatting of other Green Ribbon Commissions around the Country. Mr. Wright made 8–10 separate Reports from other cities available for review by the Commission.

Key items discussed;

- Need to research sources of funding both State and Private
- Coordination and inclusion of work already performed by the Town.
- Creation of a Report that uses the work already done in other cities.
- Generation of ideas with specific goals, costs, payback, and savings shown in a consistent format for all areas of the Report.

Generally, tasks discussion took the form of two general options; sector or source.

The Commission received a recommendation from Mr. Wright and Mr. Brand to adopt a format consistent with a structure based on Source. The Report overview would include key overview items in a structure that would look as follows;

- Coordination Team or Steering Committee
- Communications and Outreach

- Emissions Inventory
- Issues and Recommendations
- Energy & Efficiency
- Transportation & Land Use
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Adapting to Climate Change
- Implementation & Monitoring (Final Report recommendations / issues)

Task Assignment

Once formalized, the Commission will send the Structure out for further discussion. Members will be asked to place themselves within the agreed Categories; i.e. “asked where they fit in”

Ms. Goggin recommended adoption of the structure outline as proposed and Mr. Anderson (no Anderson on Commission, who was this?) seconded. By Commission hand vote, the structure was approved.

General Consideration

Several requests to standardize future Meeting times and locations were received. There was discussion among three locations and two dates – either Wednesday or Thursday. Locations discussed were the Maine Audubon facilities, the Falmouth Library, or the Falmouth Town Hall. Commission Members agreed to hold future Meetings (subject to adjustments for Public Holidays) on Thursdays at 7:00pm at the Falmouth Town Hall.

The Next Meeting was set for the 10th July, 7:00pm at the Falmouth Town Hall

Ms. Goggin suggested that she also send out a Survey as to Commission Member preferences for an intermediate Meeting for the 2nd July. That Survey was forwarded to Commission members on the 27th June – with a vote tally to be compiled and disclosed once final.

Members discussed the need to have Ms. King present the current status / progress of the Town’s Energy Use and Emissions Inventory work

Open Idea Forum

Mr. Morrison circulated Jim Hansen's Congressional testimony of Jun 23, 2008.

Mr. Gagnon presented "current event" developments with regard to the Nature Conservancy's amended views on hydroelectric project removal(s).

The Commission members discussed ongoing Green Ribbon Commission activities in Cumberland

The Commission members reviewed an Article in the Portland Press Herald about Fossil fuel trends and the challenge of making quick changes even in the face of high prices.