

Meeting Minutes

Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee

January 7, 2020

Present: Howard Carter, Jackie McDonough, Pat Fox, Andrew Goldberg, Ryan Sommer, Nathan Johnston, Glenn Baker, Don Roth, Rick Millard, Mike Cook, Ted Gagnon, Andrew Dickinson, Mike Garrity, Glenys Salas, Emily Cole-Prescott, Jennifer Brennan

Efficiency Maine Incentives on Vehicle Charging Stations

- Presentation given by Jennifer Brennan of Efficiency Maine
- For eight years Jennifer Brennan was previously employed by the Greater Portland Council of Governments and has worked with several towns (ex. Falmouth, Scarborough, Portland and South Portland) to have level two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed at city/town hall and other locations throughout the city/town as well as appropriate electric vehicles into the municipal fleet
- Efficiency Maine is the state's energy efficiency entity, the EV program is new, implemented August 2019
- 53% of greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Maine are caused by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks, not freight
- Recent settlement with VW for \$5.1 million to be used by the Department of the Attorney General for environmentally beneficial purposes, such as reduction of NOx emissions
- Result of action brought by the Office of the Attorney General for violations of Maine environmental laws and unfair trade practice laws
- The VW settlement has been directed to Efficiency Maine to administer initiatives to promote electric vehicles in Maine and lower emissions, have issued over 200 EV rebates in 2019 ranging from \$2,000-\$7,500 per recipient
- Efficiency Maine has applied for additional funding from the PUC
- The City of Portland has six Nissan LEAFs, the fleet manager has noticed lower maintenance costs and decreased fuel expenses since switching to EVs
- Between Efficiency Maine rebates and federal tax credits it costs roughly \$43 per month for a municipality to lease an EV
- AC Level One charging is slow and is usually provided with the vehicle, AC Level Two charging is what you mostly see in Maine which is a basic charger (\$650 plus installation costs) and DC fast charge has a charge time of 20-30 minutes to reach an 80% charge ex. EVgo & ChargePoint (\$7,000 plus installation costs)
- EVgo is 31 cents per minute for DC fast charging, less than half the price of gas
- Level two charger is more affordable; a Smart car takes three and a half hours to fully charge and a Chevy Bolt takes about eight hours to fully charge
- Energy Committee to consider adding a level two or DC fast EV charger downtown Saco, specifically somewhere between the library and the train station
- Ask John Wentworth to look into adding a municipal EV fleet

Engie Utility Billing Software

- Update given by Glenys Salas
- Largest benefit to the city is staying current on utility bills
- Better for budgeting since Engie produces up to date cost and usage reports
- Glenys Salas to speak with Jason DiDonato about having Engie handle the school departments utility bills as well
- Have initial set up fees come out of the capital energy account
- Split up Engie's monthly service costs by department based on number of bills per department

Committee Media Coverage

- Andrew Dickinson has background in video and photo journalism, he will be reporting positive changes that benefit the city
- Howard Carter would like monthly updates to be reported from each energy committee meeting
- Nathan Johnston would like to see an Energy Committee tab on the City of Saco website, he would also like to see Jennifer Brennan's PowerPoint added as well
- Emily Cole-Prescott said she would like to see a video put together about the Energy Committee

Zoning Ordinance Updates

- Emily Cole-Prescott has been attending planning board meeting workshops and cleaning up items that came up during the public hearing
- Charging stations for municipal use on municipal land would be allowed in any zone, will give better opportunity for EV charging locations, need to think about ADA compliance, Emily Cole-Prescott to provide more of an update in February
- Working on an energy efficiency standard, will give an update in February

Energy Spreadsheet Updates

- Jackie McDonough has been working with Dor Bender on a biweekly basis to keep the fuel database up to date
- The up to date fuel usage spreadsheet was sent via email to the committee
- On the spreadsheet you will find a percent variance which compares the current fiscal year to the prior fiscal year, also included is the usage in therms
- An email has been sent to Karen Merrill (the accounts payable specialist for the Saco School Department) requesting the most recent school fuel usage data, will have the data by the next committee meeting
- The WRRD pump station diesel usage is up 27% compared to last year, this is most likely due to storms causing power outages which creates a demand for diesel generators at the pump stations
- Parks and Recreation gym is now on natural gas
- The Camp Ellis Fire Department propane usage is currently down 83% compared to last year, Don Roth said this is due to a leak that was repaired at the end of last year

Facility Updates

- Update given by Don Roth
- The new natural gas heating system is working great at the Parks and Recreation gym, holds at a constant 67 degrees every day, new Trane unit with air conditioning as well
- Don Roth has been gathering estimates to eventually change over the boiler at the Parks and Recreation building, have only taken half of the oil burning system offline, using natural gas for

the gym and oil for the rest of the building, there is currently a 29% fuel savings since switching the gym over to natural gas

- Mike Garrity said a new burner has been installed at Fairfield School, will be switching over to natural gas in a couple of weeks
- Running dual fuel at CK Burns School, one boiler on natural gas and one on oil, lags them so they both operate

Bond Projects Update

- Update given by Pat Fox and Howard Carter
- Have spent roughly \$7 million of the \$11.75 million bond that is available to fund ten projects
- Construction of the new Public Works facility is on track to be completed by October, has a flat roof system that is structurally designed for solar, consider adding a rooftop solar system in the future
- Andrew Goldberg to go over at the meeting in February the renewable energy bill that Governor Mills recently signed into law
- Nathan Johnston and Councilor Copeland have energy goals for the city
- Pat Fox to talk to contractor about penetrations in the roof for future solar panels, Allied Engineering is the on-call engineer for the Public Works building
- There are fifty active line items in the capital plan, about twenty of the items are facility related
- \$1.2 million of the \$2 million route one sewer bond has been spent

Action Items

- Ask John Wentworth to look into adding a municipal EV fleet
- Glenys Salas to speak with Jason DiDonato about having Engie handle the school departments utility bills as well
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Next meeting February 4, 2020