

Meeting Minutes

Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee

January 8, 2019

Present: Howard Carter, Andrew Goldberg, Pat Fox, Nathan Johnston, Jacqueline McDonough, Rick Millard, Ken Foss, Emily Cole-Prescott, Don Roth, Ryan Sommer

Vehicle Charging in City Lots

- Matt Burke of EVgo met with the energy committee to talk about electric vehicle (EV) fast charging
- Andrew Goldberg mentioned that he has worked with Matt Burke to install 10 level three EV chargers at Hannaford supermarkets across Maine and New York
- EVgo is the largest owner and operator of public DC fast charging stations in the country
- An EVgo fast charging station can completely charge an EV in about thirty minutes, all depends on the battery size and type of vehicle
- EVgo owns and operates their EV charging stations, they currently have five stations in Maine, all with Hannaford, looking to add additional sites in Maine
- Since it takes thirty minutes to charge, EVgo mostly works with retail locations, it gives the customer something to do while increasing the retailer's sales
- EVgo also works with fleet clients, for example, UBER and Lyft
- Andrew Goldberg said he mentioned to Matt Burke that the two areas of interest to have EV chargers installed in Saco are at the transportation center and the parking lot located behind the post office, with a main goal of getting more people into downtown Saco
- The number one reason Hannaford went with EVgo is because there is no capital outlay, EVgo makes their money from their EV fast charging users
- EVgo prefers a 7-10 year commitment with a minimum of 5 years, they cover all the costs, the only thing they would require from the city are designated parking spaces for the EV fast chargers
- Over half of their EV charging stations are in California, their strategy in the northeast is to be ready for the coming of the EV wave, about 2-3 years out, trying to get the infrastructure in place
- In a more urban environment EVgo does pay rent for parking spaces, but in Saco those economics wouldn't work for them
- Matt Burke said the benefits of EVgo to the city of Saco would be the sustainability and green initiative as well as more foot traffic downtown
- Andrew Goldberg said there is no ruling with the ADA yet regarding the need to have a handicap EV space
- Would look to have a city ordinance change for EV charging only parking spaces
- Howard Carter asked Nathan Johnston where he thinks the chargers should be located, Nathan Johnston said start with the transportation center because it is more visible
- If the city decided to have EV charging at the transportation center high voltage power would need to be brought to the EV charging stations
- EVgo would work with the utility to bring power to the EV charging stations and pay for the electricity so there's no cost to the city

- Looking at year 2020 or 2021 to build an EVgo charging site in Saco
- Matt Burke mentioned that EVgo might be more interested in the parking lot behind the post office because it is closer to shops and restaurants in the downtown area
- EVgo customers use a plug share app or the EVgo app which helps locate a charger and allows you to pay through the app, they charge by the minute in the 30-35 cent range, can also pay with a credit card at the kiosk, if you're a member its \$9.99 a month and you get about 45-50 minutes free and would pay a lower rate, roughly 20-25 cents per minute
- Ken Foss asked about criminal mischief, Matt Burke said it's not a big problem, they have technicians that do monitor all of their stations, mostly rely on site hosts to bring issues to their attention
- EVgo would add a canopy with lighting at the charging station
- Howard Carter asked what EVgo would need from the city for an RFP, Matt said he can provide a sample RFP and would like to do a site walk

Bus Charging at The Transportation Center

- Craig Pendleton of ShuttleBus-Zoom located in Biddeford met with the energy committee to talk about installing an EV charger at the transportation center in Saco to fast charge battery-electric shuttle busses
- ShuttleBus-Zoom received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration to purchase two Proterra battery-electric shuttle busses
- Two years ago ShuttleBus-Zoom, received a \$500,000 grant to modernize their building in Biddeford: they put an addition on, all indoor lights are now LED with motion sensors, added a bus washing bay, air filters throughout the building, switched the heating system to natural gas and installed three and a half inches of extra insulation in the roof; have seen a significant reduction in energy costs
- Each Proterra battery-electric shuttle bus costs roughly \$600,000 per bus and get about seventeen miles for every ten minutes charged
- Looking to have the battery-electric shuttle busses within 18-24 months
- ShuttleBus-Zoom thinks the Saco transportation center would be a great location for an EV charging station, already use the transportation center for the busses to make interchanges and change passengers
- Currently park the busses on the side of Gooch St
- Received a cut in their funding from the state, had two Portland runs going with significant ridership, had to cut back one of their busses that goes to Portland
- Since July 1st, 2018, ShuttleBus-Zoom has been working on a pulse system which should significantly be more efficient once they begin to use the Saco transportation center as their central location
- Pat Fox said the city will have to look into how much parking the pulse run will take up at the transportation center
- Emily Cole-Prescott said the Economic Development Department can look into additional EV charging sites in the city

Turbine Site Committee

- Nathan Johnston will be forming a turbine site committee to generate new energy-efficiency projects to repurpose the remaining concrete pad
- Spoke with Kevin Sutherland, he told Nathan Johnston to hold off on conducting turbine site committee meetings until February or March when Pat Fox gets done with the RFP for the new Public Works site

- Looking to have Saco Main Street, Thornton Academy, School Department, Eric Cote, etc. as members, should have the list of members by next month
- Rick Millard has only heard favorable comments about the windmill coming down

Energy Procurement RFP Recap

- Update given by Andrew Goldberg
- Andrew Goldberg tallied the scores and put a draft table together from the energy procurement company reviews
- Consider going back to every one of the bidders and ask if the city of Saco gives them full access to the CMP accounts will they include in their bid price either monthly or quarterly tracking of the city's electricity usage
- Pat Fox said he didn't think the other energy procurement companies that presented brought anything better to the table compared to Maine PowerOptions
- The public works fuel contracts expire in August, Pat Fox needs fiscal year 2020 budget numbers for fuel, there is continuity and stable pricing with Maine PowerOptions
- Jonathan Youde of Maine PowerOptions sends emails to keep electricity demand charge down
- Barry Hobbins has done a lot of work with the PUC, he knows many of the consultants
- The energy committee voted in favor of continuing to work with Maine PowerOptions

Action Items

- Pat Fox to request a sample RFP from Matt Burke of EVgo
- Emily Cole-Prescott to send Matt Burke a list of city owned parking lots
- Add Craig Pendleton to energy committee list
- Craig Pendleton to request Barry Hobbins to attend next energy committee meeting
- At the next meeting, collectively revisit the score categories and produce one document as to why we should stay with Maine PowerOptions
- Howard Carter to send small cell towers PowerPoint to committee
- Ken Foss to send Sprint maintaining street lights article to committee

Next meeting February 5, 2019