

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Ordinance Committee Minutes

March 22, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Jordan Conference Room

Present: Ordinance Committee: Penny Jordan (Chair), Valerie Randall, Caitlin Jordan
Recycling Committee: Kara Lavender Law (Chair), Matthew Faulkner, Aubrey Miller
Alternative Energy Committee: Julia Bassett Schwerin (Chair), Rick Smith

Staff: Matthew Sturgis, Town Manager

Councilor Penny Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After opening the meeting, introductions were made by all.

1. Public Comment: None
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes of 10/19/17. Caitlin Jordan moved to accept, second by Valerie Randall, approved unanimous.
3. Discussion on exploring the opportunity to combine the mission / purpose of the Recycling Committee with the Alternative Energy Committee.

Chair Penny Jordan introduced the subject for discussion and reviewed the Council Goals.

Julia Bassett Schwerin asked how the Town came to consider combining the two committees?

Chair Penny Jordan stated the idea arose via council discussion, and the Ordinance Committee was charged with recommending if they should be combined or left as stand alone groups, or if it makes sense to maintain the status quo and then combine in the future.

Rick Smith stated it does not make sense to combine the two as they are two distinct subjects.

Chair Penny Jordan did an informal poll of the attendees to see if there was support for combination of the two committees. The poll showed unanimous opposition to combining the two.

Councilor Caitlin Jordan qualified her opposition by wondering if it was meaning now for combination or in the future, as she may be in support of a future combination.

There was general discussion among the assembled that the Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) no longer existed, and would need to be created again, following the form employed for all other committees.

Rick Smith recommended re-establishing the Alternative Energy Committee, keeping it ad-hoc, but giving it a longer term, perhaps 2 to 3 years.

Chair Penny Jordan pointed out that the recommendation from the AEC was to make it a standing committee.

Julia Bassett Schwerin and Rick Smith pointed out the recommendation was made was so they could help implement their recommendations.

There was general discussion among the group on staffing, and that having different staff for both committees is a challenge, as it would also be to have the same person to staff both committees would also present a challenge.

Kara Lavender-Law pointed out that many volunteers applied for a specific charge when applying for the Recycling Committee for instance.

Matthew Faulkner recommended to consider merging in the future, after seeing what both committees accomplish.

Councilor Caitlin Jordan recommended to have two committees so there would not be one oversized committee of say 10 to 14.

Councilor Randall stated that it may not make sense to merge, but it may make sense to pursue sustainability and come together in the future. Then the group could work on sustainability concepts.

Kara Lavender-Law agreed, stating that if the council defined sustainability goals, then those could be pursued.

There was some general group discussion on if the prior AEC members would be used, but since the earlier group was retired there would need to be new appointments.

There was additional conversation on sustainability, pointing out that other towns have a focus on sustainability independently. The goals would need clear definition. Also, other communities are further along on this concept, and discussion of this now is premature. There are overlapping concepts like public education of sustainability, recycling, alternative energy that groups could collaborate on.

Matthew Sturgis explained the operation of the sustainability committee and sustainability coordinator in South Portland.

There was additional discussion among the group of perhaps needing a larger committee to do this, but that would require creation by the council and a charge provided by the council. The council could provide clear goals so sustainable efforts could be pursued.

Chair Penny Jordan explained the Comprehensive Plan Committee is also focusing on sustainable practices in their report.

There was also discussion on what the proper names may be for both committees, with the AEC being more aptly named Renewable Energy Committee and Recycling Committee being named the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee or Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee.

The Ordinance Committee reviewed the charge of the committees from the prior definitions.

At the end of the discussion the **motion was made to “Move forward with the recommendation to create the Renewable Energy Committee and refer the recommendation to the town council” by Caitlin Jordan, Second by Valerie Randall, motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

There was no additional public comment.

Motion made by Valerie Randall to adjourn, second by Caitlin Jordan, motion passed unanimously 3-0.