

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Ordinance Committee Minutes**

**January 22, 2018**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Jordan Conference Room**

Present: Penelope A. Jordan, Chair  
Caitlin R. Jordan  
Valerie A. Randall

Recycling Committee Members:  
Kara Lavender-Law  
Matthew Faulkner

Staff: Matthew Sturgis, Town Manager

Councilor Penelope Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The prior meeting's minutes were not reviewed.

1. Public Comment: None
2. Discussion on exploring the opportunity to combine the missions / purpose of alternative energy and recycling committees.

Chair Jordan introduced the topic of combining the two committees roles. Chair Jordan had reviewed multiple other communities committees relating to recycling and alternative energy. Many had combined the concepts, most with the idea of promoting sustainability. Chair Jordan noted that sustainability is part of the yet to be approved council goals for 2018.

Chair Jordan had reviewed the history of the alternative energy committee over the years as well as the most recent report. One question that she had after this review was if recycling and renewable energy should be combined, and what would the process of this look like.

Councilor Randall asked if the definition of the work needed to be done was too narrow? What about calling this the "Sustainability Committee" should their role be expanded?

Matthew Faulkner likes the idea of sustainability, but was thinking about a prior conversation on pesticides and how that fit into the discussion, and found that a challenge.

Kara Lavender-Law stated that sustainability is looking at the prevention of negative influences and promotion of positive environmental results. She expressed concern that this may be more than a volunteer group could do.

Chair Jordan stated that the sustainability concept may be more of an item for the comprehensive plan to address. She also noted that the group's makeup is important, having volunteers who have an affinity for the areas of the committee's work is important.

Kara Lavender-Law stated that we want to keep a focus on recycling, but we also want to focus on reducing waste.

Chair Jordan asked what Kara and Matthew's feelings were on a concept of merging.

Kara Lavender-Law stated they have a lot on their plates right now: outreach with the schools, composting, and other committee work.

Councilor Caitlin Jordan thinks the two committee's could merge but they need time to define and find what works. This may require an increase in the committee size.

Chair Jordan thinks it would be beneficial to sit down with both the recycling committee and the former alternative energy committee and get their perspective.

There was consensus among the committee that it will take time to transition.

There was consensus that a combined session should be scheduled with the recycling committee and the former alternative energy committee.

Matthew Sturgis will reach out to South Portland to see if their sustainability coordinator would come and speak with this group on what they do and how they do it.

The final question to be answered is what the end goal will be? This meeting will help in getting it more defined, however it needs to be realistic, and what are the steps needing to be taken to ensure success.

A tentative next meeting is February 28, 2018 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Chair Jordan will reach out to the former alternative energy committee members and M. Sturgis will reach out to South Portland, while Kara Lavender-Law will reach out to the recycling committee members.

3. No additional public comment received.

Councilor C. Jordan made motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., second by Chair Jordan, unanimous.