



BATH
MAINE *City of Ships*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting of December 4, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lee Leiner, Rod Melanson, Paul Perkins, Megan Pryor, George Sprague

Members Absent: Elizabeth Dingley, Susan Bauer, Lou Ricciardone

Guests:

Agenda:

- Coordination with City climate goals and Climate Action Commission

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has not yet been tasked with any actions as part of the City's climate action plan. Members asked who would create that task and state the goals. In simple terms the goal of the climate action plan is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Bath. Landfill emissions are a part of that calculation. Similar items not included would be emissions from curbside collection vehicles and embodied carbon in food. Rod said the plan seeks actions over the next 12-18 months and that consultants hired by the City to facilitate the plan will supply examples of appropriate actions from other places. The consultant will address solid waste specifically. Megan will send out information on plans assembled by other municipalities. Rod said there would be a Climate Conversation on solid waste in the future.

Members asked about the status of the contract with Pine Tree Waste for curbside services. Lee said meetings were taking place with City staff and he would give an update at the next meeting.

A suggestion was made to focus on a SWAC of the month topic, and to add a feedback form to the web site. Megan agreed to draft information on food waste.

Members asked if the committee could insert information related to solid waste and/or recycling into the Maine Street Bath newsletter.

On the topic of food waste, it was reported that the Maine DEP studies on food loss and waste will be completed soon. Food rescue is the biggest bang for the buck over and above composting and anaerobic digestion. Members asked if the City could survey grocery stores and restaurants for information on current practices related to food waste. The Committee will decide what information is sought, create questions for a survey, and make suggestions on policies in reaction to the collected information.

Lee will find out if the Maine Resource Recovery Association will be doing the backyard compost bin sale this spring.

Next meeting: 5 PM Monday January 29, 2024

Note: The committee will plan to meet the fourth Monday of each month at 5 PM