

Public Policy and Environmental Action Team Minutes
May 11, 2021
6-7 PM Via Zoom

Facilitator: Charles Skold

Minutes: Sarah Braik

Present: Sarah Braik, Charles Skold, Troy Moon, Kathleen Coughlan, Heather Murdoch Curry, Liz Parsons, Dick Farnsworth, Meredith Tipton, Gus Goodwin, John Hennessy, Ralph Cordes, Ted Kannelakis, Barbara Ryland, Mary Linneman, Eleanor Prior, John Leddy

1. Reflection (Charles)

a. We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities.

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so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully

say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life

2. Presentation/discussion with Troy Moon, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Portland, re: Portland-South Portland [One Climate Future](#) (6-6:30 PM)

- a. Troy attends Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church and has presented to them. Feels finally climate action is taking hold at all levels. Troy gave a slide show on One Climate Future. Has been working on climate/environment with the City since 2000. When John Jennings started Troy began to focus on sustainability alone. First two communities in the country to develop one plan for two cities. He and Julie Rosenbach work together. Ambitious targets originally 80% by 2050 but when the city declared a climate emergency they changed the target to carbon neutrality by 2030, largely in part to young people. Committing to manage 2 feet sea level rise 2050 and 4 feet 2100-these are intermediate predictions-it could actually be worse. We need to be prepared for more hot weather, even if we eliminate emissions today. By 2050 could be 90+ most of the

summer. Central Africa and Central America are experiencing the most warming. These are those least responsible for the problem. By 2050 more than a million climate refugees are predicted-exacerbates social and political unrest. We'll have more refugees coming to Portland. To be expected in Portland: food vulnerability, infrastructure vulnerability, social services strains, public health strains, hazardous waste release with flooding, and power and water system disruptions. Social, economic and environmental sustainability all must be addressed together. One Climate Future expresses the vision of Portland and South Portland to be thriving, vibrant and sustainable communities.

- b. What impact is it having on city decisions and operations?
 - i. Working on renewable energy: the Ocean Avenue landfill solar project has been in operation several years.
 - ii. Electrification of everything
 - 1. Charging stations-one in front of city hall
 - 2. 8 chargers at the Jetport
 - 3. Some at Payson Park
 - 4. Goal to install large additional number of chargers
 - iii. [Composting drop off](#)
 - 1. Five locations-started on Earth Day as a pilot program-hopefully will lead to curbside pickup - goal 0 waste by 2050-Portland has reduced waste by 50% in the last 20 years.
 - iv. Bond agencies interested in cities taking climate action. Not taking climate action now considered a risk.
- c. What is our role to help achieve these goals?
 - i. Visit the website: <https://www.oneclimatefuture.org/>
 - ii. Attend One Climate Future Events
 - iii. Newsletter every 2 weeks may become monthly
 - iv. 2nd Friday Coffee and Climate Zoom calls
 - v. As a faith community we can remind our elected officials and leaders of the need for action to meet ambitious goals to make sure this stays at the top of the conversation
 - 1. Advocate for people not being left behind-keep the City accountable
 - 2. Welcoming new Mainers
- d. Island communities have rocky edges that make them less vulnerable to sea level rise except Cliff Island. Islands are as important as every other neighborhood. Goal is to provide the same services-looking into composting on the islands-Peaks at transfer station.
- e. Managing sea level rise: they are starting to have the conversation of how to respond to vulnerability assessments. A lot of the property on Commercial Street

is private and investments will need to be private. City is beginning to collaborate with private property owners. New construction will be required to consider sea level rise-structures will need to be more resilient. The dredging is a public-private collaboration. City works with the Waterfront Alliance. Living shoreline demo project on Back Cove-looking for grant funding.

- f. Carbon neutrality by 2030 for entire city-very ambitious goal
 - g. You can contact Troy at thm@portlandmaine.gov with questions or ideas
3. Diocesan and legislative updates - John Hennessy
- a. [LD 1626 - An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act](#) will be carried over to the second legislative session which will begin in January 2022. John doesn't know why, though it does give all sides time to negotiate. The Governor and Attorney General have objections to certain parts of the bill but John doesn't know what they are. We should continue to advocate with the Governor and the legislature. The Diocese is part of the conversation. Tribal ambassador Maulian Dana said there was some disappointment but they appreciate the additional time to work out the details and she is hopeful. Ted Kannelakis shared that in the past tribal representation in the legislature hadn't been very effective, and the ambassador role has worked out very well.
 - b. Matt Dunlap is the new Chair of the Committee on Indian Relations.
 - c. Past week-10 days have been very busy. Last week testified on anti-transgender bills-lots of young people testified. John optimistic those bills will be killed.
 - d. See the [130th Legislative Report](#) broken out by subject area-4 gun safety bills we are opposed to and 1 we are in support of. John will be sending out calls for advocacy this week. We are on the public record for most of these bills. PPEAT testified on 4 bad election reform bills, one of which was already killed. Our legislators need to hear from us. The National Rifle Association has been actively advocating. We are urged to contact our legislators regarding every one of these bills.
 - e. Next month one more chance to tackle outstanding bills
4. Ongoing matters
- a. Diocesan resolutions TABLED
 - b. Bridging the two Maines: Possible Zoom conversations between paired District 1/District 2 or rural/urban parishes using [Conversations across Difference](#)
TABLED
5. New matters
- a. Google groups TABLED
 - b. Field trip Wolfe's Neck Barn and Garden Tour on a Friday or Saturday night in May or June.

- i. Sarah will schedule a Friday evening in June and let everyone know. Sally Smith has invited us to her place afterwards.
 - c. Shall we meet in both July and August or take a month off?
 - i. Mary thinks we should meet both months because people have more time in the summer and it is light later. People can come if they can. We will make a decision at the next meeting. Send Sarah your feedback on this.
- 6. Action item: participate in week of action and contact legislators each day-John will send out reminders of which bills to call about.
- 7. Next meeting Tuesday June 8, 2021