

**Public Policy and Environmental Action Team**  
**Minutes**  
**April 8, 2025 6-7 PM**

Facilitator: Sarah

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Present: Mary Linneman, Sam Allen, Kathy Coughlin, Sarah Braik, Eleanor Roberts, Ruth Roemer, John Hennessy, Dick Farnsworth

1. Territory Acknowledgement:

The Cathedral of St. Luke sits on unceded Wabanaki territory. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from the exploitation and subjugation of those whom our forebears failed to understand and honor.

We also acknowledge the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day, leaving significant carbon footprints and contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous people worldwide.

Let us acknowledge all this, and take collective responsibility to make good use of our meeting time, and to work towards dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, to preserve lands and waters for future generations, and to support indigenous sovereignty.

2. Reflection

**Blowin' In The Wind**

Song by Bob Dylan · 1962

How many roads must a man walk down  
Before you call him a man?  
How many seas must a white dove sail  
Before she sleeps in the sand?  
Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly  
Before they're forever banned?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind  
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years must a mountain exist  
Before it is washed to the sea?  
Yes, and how many years can some people exist  
Before they're allowed to be free?  
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head  
And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind  
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up  
Before he can see the sky?  
Yes, and how many ears must one man have  
Before he can hear people cry?  
Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows  
That too many people have died?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind  
The answer is blowin' in the wind

3. Announcements

4. Diocesan and legislative updates (John)

a. [Weekly Legislative Report](#)

- i. The Education Committee yesterday held a hearing full of misinformation, ignorance and then a faith based speaker who put it all in perspective: Jane Field, of the Maine Council of Churches. People were allowed to stand up and say things that were absolutely not true, for hours, until Jane Field spoke of how the seven members of the MCC and most religions in the world support vaccines. The Pope himself has publicly endorsed vaccines. A Republican said “that’s debatable.” John is confident the Democratic majority will kill the bill. The legislature continues: the budget is of concern and the impacts of federal government cuts is changing by the hour. There will be a report on Friday of known impacts on DHHS. The bad gun and abortion bills were defeated in committee.

b. Environmental bills have still not been published

- i. [Achieving 100% Clean Electricity by 2040](#)
- ii. [Make Polluters Pay](#)
- iii. [Energy Fairness Act](#)

c. [Wabanaki Alliance’s current bill tracker](#)

- i. A bill that would expand the tribe’s online casino activities was held up in Committee.

d. Senator Brenner’s Zero waste bill

5. Ongoing matters

- a. Looking for new PPEAT Co-Chair to serve this year alongside Charles
- b. Update on review/update of our [flier](#) (Dick)
  - i. Just needs Charles’ approval.
- c. Follow up on the Racial Equity Steering Committee of City Council (Dick)

- i. We may need to write a letter to Mayor Dion to ask who did an audit on the work based on the recommendations of this committee. Sam can make PDFs out of Dick's paper copy and we can distribute it to everyone. We'll make a decision next month.
- d. Food Waste
  - i. St. Luke Composting (Ruth & Mary)
    - 1. April 13 forum
      - a. Slide show from Garbage to Garden following a quiz. It will not be a long presentation because George is still doing Episcopal 101 at 11:30. The announcement will go out this week. Dick has got some green buckets to be taken. We can hand out 4x6 cards with what can or can't be composted with contact info for GtoG.
      - b. Coffee hour
        - i. Sam bagels and cream cheese
        - ii. Ruth fruit or veg
        - iii. Mary gluten free baked items
        - iv. Kathy cheese and crackers and nuts
        - v. Dick scones
        - vi. Sarah hummus
- e. White Christian Nationalism forum (Dick)
  - i. Several of us went to a webinar this week on How to End Christian Nationalism by Amanda Tyler: [link to the recording](#). A coffee hour presentation about the book could be used to kick off a book discussion series.
- f. Jill Saxby (Dick)
  - i. Dick hasn't gotten a response yet.
- g. Portland and South Portland Conservation Commission activities
  - h. Portland: PPEAT members may want to get involved in one of these organizations and perhaps participate as a group in one of their activities.
    - i. [Portland Trails](#): in the spring they do a lot of clean up. Dick will let us know the date and time.
    - ii. [Friends of Casco Bay](#)
    - iii. [Portland Climate Action Team](#)
  - i. South Portland
    - i. Artificial turf, housing applications, other?
 

The artificial turf group has been meeting with the School Board. On the ballot in November will be three options: one artificial turf, two organic grass field or three neither.

- a. Tomorrow a bill will be heard in committee: 3-year moratorium on artificial turf. Two from South Portland will testify. Chris Kessler and Deqa Delac are cosponsors.
    - b. Mary told us that the Catholic Diocese owns property in South Portland near Veterans Bridge. They have taken down many trees and the people who live contiguous to the property have been asking for support. The trees were removed to build a solar array. The contract was signed before the tree ordinance was in effect.
  - j. Creation Care Team (Sarah)
    - i. The Rev. Dr. Jenny Reece is now coordinator, Sarah Braik the scribe and the Rev. Jack Fles is the Earth Keeper Support person.
  - k. Walking Together update (Ruth)
    - i. The group met last night. People have volunteered to be doorkeepers at Hope Acts. So far nine from St. Luke's have volunteered and will be trained. Still need seven more, for 2 hour shifts. They are open M-Th. Food distribution with Presente! Maine has begun and Peter Carleton is looking for a volunteer two Saturdays per month distributing food. Immigrants Make America Great buttons are at the main entrance. Take one if you will wear it. John is arranging for Bishop Budde buttons for the Diocese. John has Bishop Budde T-shirts. Immigrant Welcome Center (24 Preble Street) may only be around for 60 days more as they have lost federal funding. Executive Director Danny Mullin is looking for volunteers to fill some of the gaps.
- 6. New matters
  - a. Earth Day
    - i. Liturgy
      - 1. This is being prepared by The Rev. Dr. Jenny Reece and The Rev. John Lien. They are late getting it out so it may not get much use this year.
    - ii. Earth Day celebrations in [Portland](#) on April 12 at Payson Park and [South Portland](#) on April 26 at Mill Creek Park, both 10-2
- 7. Next meeting: May 13, 2025 6 PM