



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Aurora Taylor, Vice Chair Katie Riley, Secretary Erik de Jong

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

**Staff Liaison:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

**Assembly Liaison:** Thor Christianson

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**Monday, September 8, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Harrigan Centennial Hall**

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### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 P.M.**

**Present:** Aurora Taylor (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Mark Seavy (Public Works Director), Dennis Peterson (Chief Mechanic)

**Public:** Shannon Haugland (Daily Sitka Sentinel)

### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the July 7, 2025 minutes.

**Riley moved to approve the July 7, 2025 minutes.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.**

### IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

None.

### V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Update on Procurement of Municipal Electric Vehicles

Mark Seavy, the new Public Works Director, introduced himself and updated the Commission on municipal vehicles in general and the impacts of the Alaska Marine Lines (AML) decision to stop shipping electric vehicles (EV) effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. Gabel provided additional details on the vehicle procurement process. Seavy and Gabel answered Commission questions regarding the impacts this would have on the progress on resolution 22-18: Decarbonize Municipal Operations. Seavy explained that while AML's decision would be a challenge, the City was looking into alternatives options and would still purchase EVs if possible.

**B. Approve Comments for the Alaska Marine Highway System's Regulation Review for Public Comment**

Gabel introduced the item and explained that shortly after the notification from AML regarding EVs, the Municipal Administrator received a request for information (RFI) on a regulation review for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) and requested the Sustainability Commission review the drafted comments for CBS. She informed the Commission that if approved, they would be sent to the Municipal Administrator who would submit the comments on behalf of CBS.

Commissioners discussed the RFI and proposed modifying the draft comments as follows:

- Highlight/bold the main point of the comments in the introduction
- Break up recommendation 2 into two recommendations
- Include a minimum window of 30 days for public comment in recommendation 6

Bagley requested that comments be sent to additional state representatives.

**Riley moved to APPROVE the draft CBS AMHS regulation review request for information comments as written in the packet and modified through Commission discussion.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.**

**C. Appoint Commissioners to the Decarbonizing and Rightsizing to Improve Vehicle Efficiency (DRIVE) Advisory Group**

Gabel introduced the item and explained that with a new Public Works Director, new EV challenges, and an upcoming budget cycle, the Decarbonizing and Right-Sizing to Improve Vehicle Efficiency (DRIVE) Advisory Group would begin to formally meet. She added that while three Commissioners had volunteered, it was recommended to formally appoint two Sustainability Commission Representatives given potential changes to the Commission size to address longstanding vacancies.

**Taylor moved to nominate de Jong as a Sustainability Commission Representative for the Drive Advisory Group; de Jong accepted the nomination.**

**de Jong was APPOINTED as a DRIVE Advisory Group Representative 5-0 by voice vote.**

**Riley moved to nominate Bagley as a Sustainability Commission Representative for the Drive Advisory Group; Bagley accepted the nomination.**

**Bagley was APPOINTED as a DRIVE Advisory Group Representative 5-0 by voice vote.**

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

None.

**IX. REPORTS** *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

**Staff:** Gabel updated the Commission on the status of the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory which was awaiting final approval from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) and announced she would be traveling the following week for the annual Energy-to-Communities summit at NREL in Denver, CO. She encouraged Commissioners to attend Southeast Conference as she would be unable to attend.

**Chair:** Taylor informed the Commission that she would be in Anchorage, AK for the October meeting and that the Department of Transportation's Rural Tribal Assistance Pilot Program was currently open.

**Assembly:** None.

**Commissioners:** Bagley announced that she would be in Italy during the next meeting for an invite-only climate summit hosted by Pope Leo XIV.

Hope updated the Commission on recent conferences he had attended and information about staffing changes and upcoming visits from the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Tribal Government Affairs representatives.

Riley requested Commissioners help connect her with organizations eligible for a grant to support EV infrastructure.

**X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 7:11 P.M.**

Minutes by: Erik de Jong, Secretary