

# MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

August 17, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Jennifer Soldati, Doug Watson, Sara McGraw and Michael Bobinsky.

Chairman Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Doug Watson moved and Sarah McGraw seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2017 Committee meeting; all voted in favor of adopted the minutes.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Tree Ordinance.** Mike Bobinsky reported that the City Council voted to adopt the proposed Tree Ordinance with proposed amendments advanced by the Conservation Commission. Council action occurred at their August 14, 2017 City Council meeting.

**LED Street Lighting Conversion:** Mike also reported that the Affinity LED Lighting contractor continues to be approximately 95% complete. Remaining specialty lighting needed to be ordered and remaining work is now scheduled to start up right after Labor Day Holiday. Staff has asked Affinity LED to submit a proposal on evaluating outside facility lighting at selected City and School Facilities where LED technology has not be converted at this time. Once staff receives that proposal, we will evaluate if additional work can be completed such as replacing specific parking light lights at the Police Department Facility, exterior lighting at our Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and at the DPW facility.

**Solar array project at Blackwater Road Superfund Landfill Property.** Mike provided a brief update about the proposal from NH Solar Garden to lease the City's Blackwater Road Landfill property to construct a solar array to produce 1-2 MG solar farm project. The City Manager and key staff continue to negotiate a land lease and a power purchase agreement. Once negotiations are complete, staff will advance the recommended proposal to the City Council for approval.

### NEW BUSINESSES

#### **Consideration of promoting /participating in Energize360**

Committee had lengthy discussion about the program and how it might be useful for Somersworth residents. Neighboring cities have signed up to serve as a partner in the program which aims to program cost effective energy saving reduction measures and energy audits for resident households. The Committee wanted to learn more about the program, how the other cities and towns are promoting it and their results. In addition, Committee member Jennifer Soldati moved and Mike Bobinsky

seconded to obtain more information from the program Director of Energize360. Mike will speak with Bob Belmore to provide more background and vet the program out before inviting the Director, Henry Herndon, to the September Sustainability Committee meeting.

**Discussion on alignment of the Sustainability goals with that of Vision 20/20 goals:**

Committee Chair Orzechowski initiated the discussion over how the Committee's goals align with that of Vision 2020. Doug Watson commented that the Committee's overall work is in line with Vision 2020; promoted and advanced the proposal for a new Tree Ordinance and development of the Community Garden program, as examples. Mike Bobinsky offered to provide the Committee with a copy of a recent PowerPoint presentation made to the City Council by City Councilor Jessica Paradis and Shanna Saunders on the current status of Vision 2020 Goals. That presentation is more of a graphic depiction of the key goals but can help as a guide to ensure the Committee's work is in alignment. There is an updated spreadsheet identifying goals and their status that may be helpful for the Committee to view, as well. Mike will distribute the spreadsheet document to Committee members once located. Mike suggested that the Chair consider returning this topic to the next Committee meeting for further discussion and comment.

**City Park and Trail Clean Up effort**

Sarah McGraw brought up a proposal for the Committee to endorse a broader volunteer effort for maintaining and cleaning up City parks and trails. Her proposal would build off of the work of the Somersworth Youth Council with their sponsorship of the annual first Saturday in May "Spirit Up Day", and involve a bi-monthly clean up event at key parks. Examples included cleaning up debris littered along the Riverwalk Trail off of Buffumsville Road, and perhaps the program could include promoting education sessions on how to eradicate invasive weeds. The Committee felt promoting carry in/carry out signage at key parks would help with reducing litter. Staff will consider signage and Sarah is asked to bring the topic back with more details at the next meeting for further discussion.

Doug Watson moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded the motion to adjourn the Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.