

## MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

NOVEMBER 15, 2018 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Ed Levasseur, Sarah McGraw, Doug Watson, and Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting were considered. Councilor Ed Levasseur motioned to accept the minutes, Mike Bobinsky Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Correspondence: Sarah McGraw said she had spoken to Sustainable Seacoast about proposed resolution to limit single use plastics. Ed Levasseur said he will be inviting Sustainable Seacoast to the next reading of the resolution at the upcoming City Council meeting on December 5. Ed also discussed doing a reusable bag installation and filming of the documentary Bag It.
3. Unfinished Business:

#### 3.1 EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager Access

Members were still signing up for accounts on the EPA Energy Star website. Scott Orzechowski was going to ask Dave Sharples, former City Planner, for any previous energy information. When data becomes available Sustainability Committee members will input City energy use data into the EPA Energy Star portfolio to track City building energy use. There was some discussion about the funding that just became available to the City for upgrades to the City's waste water treatment plant from the State Revolving Loan Fund. The upgrades will increase capacity for projected growth in the City.

Scott Orzechowski discussed the recent decision by City Council to halt plans for a solar array on the superfund site on Blackwater Road. Mike Bobinsky talked about the structure and engineering of the site makes the property at risk for failure of water treatment from the landfill. Councilor Ed Levasseur stated that he had proposed various options to consider in order to keep the project going. Sarah McGraw expressed concern over the material deposited in the superfund site and risk of failure of water treatment in the landfill was worrisome. Discussion ensued about other potential properties around the City that may be suitable for solar.

Mike Bobinsky noted Durham NH's solar array for plans on an old gravel pit, at the library and police station which was partially funded by grants.

#### 3.2 Idling Reduction

Doug Watson reviewed a draft policy for idling reduction for City vehicles, with resources and references to NH Code of Administrative rules Env- A 1102.02. Discussion ensued about how to implement the policy and how other cities and towns have done similar policies. There would be

exceptions to said policies for extenuating circumstances such as for emergency vehicles. A public/ staff education piece would go along with implementation such as a brief PowerPoint presentation to City Council. References such as OEM Manufacturers Idling Recommendations and Clean Cities tip sheets were on Doug Watson's list of resources. Mike Bobinsky said that employees do receive manufacturer training on city vehicles and equipment. Scott Orzechowski recommended training all new City employees on proposed idling policies. Councilor Ed Levasseur suggested referring the draft policies to Government Operations Committee for review once there is a more final copy. The main policies discussed for City implementation was having City employees take a pledge to reduce waste by not idling cars unnecessarily, installing a simple placard inside of City vehicles with idling rules, and training new employees on policy.

The Sustainability Committee is going to review the draft policy and bring back revisions to the next Committee meeting.

### 3.3 Adding Sustainability to RFP Process

Scott Orzechowski said he had not been able to meet with Bob Belmore or Scott to discuss the RFP process. This item will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

Scott Orzechowski mentioned according to a recent documentary that the biggest positive impact to the planet is changing behavior. Scott suggested holding a series of public forums on various sustainability topics in the city. The Committee will think of some speakers to bring to the next meeting.

Doug Watson said that Wendy Berkeley may present findings of the Farm to School grant to the Sustainability Committee at the next Committee Meeting.

The Committee decided to hold the next Sustainability Committee meeting on **January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

Councilor Ed Levasseur motioned to adjourn, Mike Bobinsky Seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw