

Date: August 26, 2016

To: Sustainability Committee

From: Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and Utilities

Subject: DRAFT Minutes of the August 18 2016 Sustainability Committee

Chair Scott O began the meeting at 6:04pm.

Attendance: Scott Orzechowski, Doug Watson, City Councilor Jennifer Soldati, Angela Ficco, Mike Bobinsky, and Sara McGraw.

1. A motion was made by Jennifer Soldati and seconded by Mike Bobinsky to approve the minutes of the July 21 Committee meeting. Motion passed.
2. Guest -Public Comments Received. Sara McGraw discussed that she had recently met with some Community gardeners at the Malley Farm and reported that some gardeners were not communicating to other volunteers about how they were using their garden spaces, that there are examples of some gardeners encroaching on other spaces and others not working their spaces at all. There was discussion about the need to update rules and expectations for gardeners that sign up. The committee decided to hold a work shop prior to their September 15 meeting on the topic and invite all of the Community gardeners to the meeting. Purpose will be to consider recommendations to improve operating guidelines for the gardeners, and discussion about possible new areas to allow Community gardening to occur. After discussion, Doug Watson moved and Angela Ficco seconds a motion to hold a special meeting with the gardeners to discuss improvements, better understand current issues at the Malley Farm Community Garden. The meeting will occur at 5:30pm at City Hall, Council Chambers. Motion passed.
3. The Committee discussed initial information about tree planting standards and received background information from Doug Watson and Councilor Soldati. The data shared by the Committee members reflects what other communities are doing regarding public street trees, replanting requirements, and tree specs. Doug discussed a need for a future Community Assessment of the City trees for Somersworth by the NH Community Forester Program. Further information and discussion about next steps with this topic will occur at the next Committee meeting. Committee members are asked to review the material handed out and prepare to discuss further at the next meeting. Scott mentioned that the Planning Department is using a new tree reference guide that is updated and reflects best practice for urban landscapes.
4. Social media/website updates. The Committee discussed the need to update the Committee's website with current information and members. Mike Bobinsky indicated he would meet with City Managers office on coordinating new updates. The Committee will continue the topic at the next meeting.

5. Doug Watson discussed the Farm to School program. There is another meeting on September 24 at 5:30pm at Idlehurst Elementary School. Doug will represent the Committee at the meeting.
6. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.
7. Next meeting will be on September 15, 5:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers. Staff to arrange invitations to the Community gardeners for the meeting. Committee and Chair to facilitate the discussion. Standard agenda to occur after the 5:30pm workshop.