

# MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

February 21, 2019- 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Ed Levasseur, Doug Watson, Devon Stanley and Michael Bobinsky. Sarah McGraw was absent.

**1.APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.** Minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting was considered. Ed Levasseur moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

### **2 Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence to the Committee

Scott announces that Devon Stanley, teacher at the Somersworth Middle School will be a new member to the Committee. Devon was recently appointed by the Mayor to serve on the Committee represent the Somersworth Middle School.

### **3. Unfinished Business**

#### **a. Idling Reduction Policy**

Committee members discussed unfinished elements of the idling reduction policy and provided a brief background on the genesis for a proposed Policy for Devon as he is a new member to the Committee. Committee members will continue to review and offer edits to a proposed Idling Reduction Policy, Doug Watson, Councilor Levasseur and Mike Bobinsky agreed to meet on March 18 to provide further review and edits to the draft policy and plan to take back to the Committee an updated version of the draft policy for further review at the March meeting.

#### **b. Climate Change Public Forum**

Scott presented the concept behind the forum which involves the Committee developing a speaker's series on topics relative to climate change, sustainable practices and community resiliency. Scott has discussed the concept behind the forums with Lisa Wise, from the UNH Cooperative Extension Office, who has speaker contacts and experience with setting up such forums for future use. Scott outlined that the March, 27, 2019 Workshop on the Public Forum will be to hear more about logistics and best practices to follow in developing a speaker series and the roles of Committee members in sponsoring future forums. He will be inviting Lisa to the Committee's workshop to assist with the planning work.

#### **c. Recycling Options available to Somersworth-Committee workshop on Recycling Program**

The Committee originally planned to hold a workshop on better understanding the current recycling program costs and possible options on March 14. A representative from WMI has been invited to provide further background on current state of recycling. Scott advised that Sarah McGraw is not able to make that meeting date and an alternative meeting date was suggested. Committee members suggested March 18 or March 21. Scott will contact Sarah and confirm her availability on either date and report back to the Committee members for finalizing meeting plans. Mike Bobinsky advised that he will let the Waste Management rep know the March 14 meeting date is being reschedule and determine if he will be able to attend either date. Mike will advise Scott of the WMI representatives' availability.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **-Announcements and Reports**

-Committee members discussed the past City efforts to install a solar array at the Blackwater Road Superfund Landfill site; and interest in recommending the City Council continue to look into solar applications at City owned facilities of land. Ed offered to speak with the City Manager about making contact with ReVision Solar who is an established solar energy provider in the New England Region, has done several projects throughout the region including recent ones for the City of Dover.

-Scott mentioned that the Conservation Commission is looking into recommending purchase of property in the Rocky Hill Road well site area for future ground water protection enhancements.

-Doug discussed the Dover DIMS group which is promoting legislation that would address the problems with single use plastic bags.

Ed Levasseur reported on Aclara's announcement that they may relinquish their hydro license from FERC due to lack of use and required investments. If they pursue that, Aclara would also sell the Dam located by the Somersworth-Berwick Bridge.

Mike Bobinsky moved and Ed Levasseur seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended at 7:25pm

Next regular Committee meeting is set for Thursday March 21, 2019 at 6pm at City Hall. The Workshop on the City's Residential Recycling Program will occur on Monday March 18 at 5:30pm. The Workshop on the development of Climate Change public forums will occur on March 27 at 6pm at City Hall conference room.

Submitted and prepared by:

Michael J. Bobinsky