

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

City Council Chamber

MAY 16, 2019- 6:00 P.M

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

Guest: Amanda G Executive Director of the Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Scott Orzechowski opened the meeting at 6:05pm.

1. Approval of the April 18, 2019 minutes. Scott read the summary of the minutes from that meeting. Minutes were amended to state that Scott would be electing a member of the Planning Board as a possible member on the Sustainability Committee, and that "Preserve Somersworth" would be a 10 year plan. Mike Bobinsky moved and Doug Watson seconded the motion to approve the April minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimous vote.
2. Correspondence. Doug and Scott asked about the status of a City Proclamation for Arbor Day; Mike Bobinsky indicated that the Mayor has already signed a Proclamation for Arbor Day and that staff has arranged a tree planting event for Ash Park for Thursday June 13. Details to follow, and social media will be updated to alert the public about the event. Staff is working with A.J. Dupree of the NH State Community Forestry Program who has also arranged for a donated tree for the event. No other correspondence.
3. Sarah requested that the topic on the Food Truck Festival be moved up on the Agenda. Chair agreed and a discussion was held with Amanda about the possibility of allowing recycling of aluminum beer cans at the event. After lengthy discussion, Amanda agreed to work with Sarah and her employer (NRRRA) on the possible use of a recycling can trailer to be used for collecting and storing cans during the event. Amanda will take back details of this activity to her planning group to discuss how best to implement this. Amanda is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Chamber and hoped to work closer with the Sustainability Committee in the future on planning event recycling and other waste reduction measures. Amanda did however check with WMI about the possibility of donating more recycling bins for the event and WMI indicated they were not in a position to help in that fashion this year.
4. Unfinished Business
 - A. Idle Reduction Policy-Doug Watson and Mike Bobinsky discussed work on draft proposed policy statements and background information. Doug passed around working drafts of the proposed policy and the Committee held discussion. Mike will incorporate further points into the draft policy document for the City Managers review.

- B. Scott discussed the Energy Star Portfolio process, need for some members to still sign on for account access. Scott hopes the Portfolio can be used to help the City track energy costs by year and by facility with the goal of reducing energy use and costs where possible.
- C. Newsletter. Scott suggested he will send a few articles to Brenda for the upcoming City Manager's newsletter; possible topics include reference to the City's recent State of NH energy award recognizing the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the most efficient Treatment Plant in the State for 2018, and Tree City USA proclamation.
- D. Scott discussed the upcoming Climate Change Speaker Series. He indicated that he has lined up Anne Ropeik, radio host at New Hampshire Public Radio to discuss her views and perspectives on Climate Change. The event is to be held at Idlehurst Elementary School on June 20 from 7pm-9pm. Committee members will be meeting again on May 29 from 6:30-7:30pm at City Hall for planning the logistics, promotional effort, for the speaker event.

New Business:

Doug Watson had two (2) announcements/topics; one was about the City receiving an energy saving award from the State DES on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Plant and employees were recognized for the amount of energy used in the treatment process as compared to other Plants in the state. Doug also talked about the plastic straw ban and the City Councils' recent approval of a Resolution that supports Somersworth businesses that works to reduce single use plastics straws and bags.

Mike also mentioned that the City will be hosting a tree planting event with the NH State Forester on June 13 at 11am. Details about the tree planting event will be updated on social media. The tree is being donated by the State program and staff plans to hold the event at Ash St Park.

Next Meeting:

- May 29, 6:30pm-Planning session for Climate Change speaker event
- June 20, 6pm, monthly meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Devon Stanley