

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

February 18, 2021 - 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Sarah Eckstein, Chair, City Councilor Crystal Paradis, Wendy Berkley, Doug Watson and Michael Bobinsky.

Chairman Sarah Eckstein called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the September 17 2020 meeting was tabled pending receipt of the minutes.

2. Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Sarah opened the meeting with a welcome to all members and a recognition that the Committee has not met in close to a year. Sarah encouraged open dialogue and active participation among the members. Sarah introduced herself as the new Chair recently appointed by the Mayor and City Council to serve on the Sustainability Committee. Sarah discussed her recent conversations with Mayor Hillard and the Mayors' proposed Resolution to restructure the Committee. The reasoning behind this restructuring was to help the Committee streamline decision making and remove vacant positions that have been difficult to fill. ***(This Resolution was introduced as a first Read at the February 16, 2021 City Council meeting and approved with an amendment to include 2 alternates at the March 1 City Council meeting)***. She indicated that she would be having regular updates with the Mayor on the work of the Committee to ensure alignment with the City's goals. Sarah may be introduced at an upcoming City Council meeting. Councilor Paradis was recognized as the City Council representative on the Committee.

3. Goal Setting Discussion

After introductions of the other members, Sarah reviewed past work plans, and facilitated a discussion on the status of projects/topic areas that had been the work plan of the Committee over the past year plus. In addition, the Committee discussed highlighting broad topics and then narrowing focus areas. The following summarizes the outcome of the discussion:

Mike will report what the cost estimates are if the city were to consider holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection more than once a year. ***(Challenge is the City benefits from a City of Rochester Grant from DES that promotes a regional drop off event to offset costs to participants.)***

Crystal was going to reach out to the Portsmouth City Councilor to see if we can get the same guest speaker to come and talk to the Committee about net metering to determine if electrical savings to the City could occur.

Sarah and Crystal will conduct research to better understand how other cities/towns deploy a Rain Barrel program.

Sarah will coordinate with Doug on a few dates where we can bring the City Councilor of Dover in to speak on the topic of their Toxic Pesticide Ordinance at a future Committee meeting.

Wendy will draft a summary about the Sustainability Committee's existence, current topics working on for an upcoming City newsletter and share it with Mike and Sarah for feedback before sending to the City Manager for consideration.

Sarah will work with Mike on locating the September 17, 2020 Committee meeting minutes and work on writing up the summary of the goal's discussions.

3. Public Comments

None

Next meeting will be on March 18 at 6pm as a zoom meeting.

Michael Bobinsky moved and Doug Watson seconded the motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting ended at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted Mike Bobinsky