

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Committee members present: Sarah Eckstein Chair, City Councilor Crystal Paradis, Wendy Berkeley, Michael Bobinsky, invited guest, Lilac Snowden-Hallowell

ABSENT: Doug Watson

Chairman Sarah Eckstein called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the previous September 17, 2020 meeting was considered. These minutes were delayed in submission and never acted on. Crystal Paradis moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded the motion to accept the September 17, 2020 minutes. Motion passed unanimously. The minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting was considered. Sarah moved and Crystal seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Introduction of Lilac Snowden-Hallowell

Sarah introduced Lilac and advised the Committee that Lilac is a student at Somersworth High School and is an advocate for sustainability practices and activities, has given presentations and led discussions about sustainable practices in her classrooms. In addition, she has applied to the Mayor as an alternate member on the Sustainability Committee. Lilac discussed that she is currently interviewing businesses in the area to assess their sustainable business practices. She is also developing a local business directory to highlight their sustainable practices. The directory may include maps showing locations. The directory could be used to educate consumers on businesses that support sustainability. In addition, Lilac indicated she is willing to promote the work of the Sustainability Committee in future presentations at the High School, including promoting this May's Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off program.

3. Committee Resources

Sarah reviewed what is available for Committee members on Google Docs shared files, which includes a calendar showing Committee meetings and upcoming free lectures, webinars, etc. on related topics; and folders where data can be found. It was discussed that Google Docs does not replace the City's website for posting committee agendas, minutes or other work that is discussed and acted on in public meetings.

4. Meeting with the Mayor

Sarah shared that she met with Mayor Hillard on March 3, 2021, and plans to have monthly meetings with the Mayor for briefings and updates on Committee activities. She mentioned that among the goals the Mayor would like to see is the Committee create education forums, possibly with other speakers and develop a timeline for implementation; suggested in parallel to submit monthly newsletter articles through the City's newsletter. These articles could cover topics that coincide with topics covered in the education forums by way of sharing sustainable tips and promoting local business who incorporate these sustainability practices.

5. Update on topics from February meeting:

Non-Chemical Herbicide-Pesticides-Sarah has spoken with City officials from Dover to about the City of Dover's efforts to use non chemical treatments for weed abatement, fertilizer; as suggested by Doug Watson previously, she plans to invite a City official to discuss the Dover program at a future meeting.

-Net Metering topic. Crystal Paradis will be in touch with representatives of this topic

-HHW Drop -off program. Mike Bobinsky summarized a background memo on the program and indicated he had just received word from WMI and the City of Rochester that this year's event will be held on Saturday May 1, 2021 at the Turnkey Landfill. The Committee discussed various ways to promote the event to Somersworth citizens.

-Newsletter: Wendy Berkeley will be working on an article about the Committee for the City Managers April newsletter.

-Earth Day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 30. The Committee discussed ways to promote these two days. The Mayor has already signed a proclamation for Arbor Day and City staff will be planning a standard tree planting event in recognition of the City's Tree City USA status.

Mike Bobinsky moved and seconded by Crystal Paradis to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 15, 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Bobinsky