

November 23, 2016

### **Minutes of the Sustainability November 17, 2016 Committee Workshop**

The Workshop was called to order by the Chair, Scott O at 5:40pm. The following committee members attended the workshop: Scott Orzechowski, Doug Watson, Jennifer Soldati, Shanna Saunders and Michael Bobinsky. Scott opened the meeting and stated that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the need for the Committee to recommend to the City Council the adoption of a Tree Ordinance., to enhance the City's status as a Tree City USA Community. He invited both Shanna Saunders and Doug Watson to give further background on the topic.

Doug gave background on his research on Tree Ordinances drawing from best practices and model ordinances from the Arbor Day Foundation, which sponsors the Tree City USA program. The City of Somersworth has been a Tree City USA community for the past several years. In addition, Doug shared that in order for any city/town to be a Tree City USA you must meet the following 4 criteria:

- Establish a Tree Board
- Have a Tree Ordinance that describes how the City works to maintain, replace and plant trees in the City's public spaces
- Reflect an expenditure of \$2 per capita in the area of tree maintenance, planting, removal, etc.
- Adopt an annual proclamation recognizing National Arbor Day and Tree City USA designation.

Discussion occurred on each one of these criteria. The expenditure of \$2 per capita for Somersworth means we need to spend/contribute approximately \$24,000 annually for tree care, and that can come from a wide range of contributors including the City's maintenance and operating budget, outside utilities that conduct annual tree care, and developer contributions to public street trees. Much of the costs are already included in City and possibly School Departments' annual budgets and the feeling was this was obtainable. Doug also shared a draft Tree Ordinance drawn from the Arbor Day Foundation for discussion, review and possible consideration.

Shanna discussed how the City has a Landscape Design Standard within the Site Plan Ordinance which requires developers to meet minimum standards for including landscaping in their developments. This can be on both public and private portions of development site. Shanna indicated that this element of the Ordinance has been used/included in the past applications for the City designation application as a

Tree City USA, without denial. The Committee indicated that there is a desire to move more toward a standard Tree Ordinance which goes beyond the Landscape Design Standards for private development. The Committee also discussed the need for a Tree Board and the who would serve on the Board, how appointments are made and whether or not in made sense to pull interested members from related Committees' such as the Conservation Commission, Cemetery Trustees, Public Works and Environment, Planning Board and the Sustainability Committee. Committee members were generally in favor of a separate Board, made up of 5 persons, appointed by the Mayor, and discussed general roles.

Mike was asked to work on edits to the Model Ordinance, incorporating a recommended tree species listing, add a tree replacement element and other discussion and present at the December Committee meeting. Scott moved and Doug Seconded the motion to move the working draft Tree Ordinance for further review and consideration at their December Committee meeting. Doug moved and Jennifer Soldati seconded the motion to adjourn the Workshop.

### **Minutes of the November 17, 2016 Sustainability Committee meeting.**

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 6:15pm. Attending the Committee meeting included Scott Orzechowski, Jennifer Soldati, Doug Watson and Michael Bobinsky. Guest member was Shelli Smith Executive Director of Seacoast Eat Local.

Jennifer moved and Doug seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 30 meeting.

Scott opened the meeting and asked Doug Watson to give a short background on the issues surrounding the Farmers Market held during the growing season at Goodwin Health Center and how the Committee has expressed interest in the past about the Farmers Market, with respect to location, participation and how the program might be improved. Doug met Shelli at a recent Farm to School meeting and suggested she attend a Committee meeting to provide more background and perspective on the current Farmers Market since her program helps support and promote related activities at the Market including the SNAP program. Doug was asked about how the Farm to School program links into the Farmers Market.

Shelli explained how her program runs the SNAP program during the Farmers Market events, that the Market is run by staff representatives of the Goodwin Medial Health Center, she has a 3 year grant from Goodwin to promote use of the SNAP program. (Supplement Nutrition Program.) Shelli further explained there is decline in getting vendors/farmers to come to the Market, and customer's numbers are low. Goodwin Health Providers run the program, may have a different focus than traditionally run Farmers Markets, perhaps different location would enhance participation. Shelli explained a developing program known as a Mobile Market, but does not want to compete with the current Farmers Market so has not promoted that in Somersworth, but does support this in Dover and Rochester. Shelli advised that Goodwin was in process of hiring a new program coordinator, and is hopeful that the Farmers Market Committee be expanded to include other stakeholders. Shelli suggested the Farmers Market Committee made up mostly of Goodwin health providers need to have more voices including members

from the Sustainability Committee to help with broader perspective and development of the program. Shelli indicated she would inform the Committee members next time there is a Farmers Market Committee meeting in order for the Sustainability to send a representative to begin to participating. Scott and the Committee members agreed with that opportunity. It was mentioned that Sara McGraw would be a good representative on the Farmers Market Committee along with Doug Watson as an alternate.

Scott finished the Committee meeting with a brief discussion about his personal experience with food composting involving worms, and how we might promote use of rain barrels and compost bins among the Somersworth residents. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Jennifer Soldati moved and Doug Watson seconded adjourning the Committee meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Next Committee meeting will be on December 15 at 6pm, City Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael J. Bobinsky, City Manager designee

Scott Orzechowski, Chair