

## MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

City of Somersworth-City Hall

January 20, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Sarah Eckstein, Lilac Snowden-Hallowell, Wendy Berkley, Michael Bobinsky, Doug Watson

Excused Absence: City Councilor Matt Gerding

Chair Sarah Eckstein opened the meeting at 6pm. Sarah welcomed the committee and reported that Councilor Gerding was recovering from COVID 19 and would not be attending tonight's meeting. She indicated the focus of the meeting will be on reviewing and seeking comments on the Committee's proposed goals and if there was time to revisit the Sustainability Framework.

**1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Mike moved approval of the minutes and Wendy Berkely seconded the motion. Motion to accept the meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**2.COMMITTEE GOALS:** Committee members reviewed and discussed the proposed goals and priority areas. Committee members all offered comments and suggestions on the list of goals for the Committee to focus on over the next year. Wendy, Doug and Mike had specific suggestions. Wendy offered perspectives on food composting, trash on the lawn program and the plastic reduction plans Lilac Snowden-Hallowell shared in previous meetings. Doug Watson wants to ensure a Climate Action Plan is weaved into the priorities of the Committee, and wants more data driven metrics to back up how successful plans and goals are working in achieving goals. Mike offered a series of comments and edits to the goal document and offered to share those with Sarah by email and can be considered by the whole next time the Committee meets.

**3.Sustainability Framework:** The Committee ran out of time and will add this topic to February's agenda. Sarah is looking to get support and backing from the Committee to move forward in presenting this Framework to city staff and City Council in Q1. The purpose of this framework is to help the City make transparent decisions that weigh the environmental benefits and risks as they fund various projects.

### **GENERAL UPDATES:**

Sarah shared a calendar of future meetings; projected possible tours in the spring of the City's water treatment and possibly the Wastewater Treatment Plant. She also will be assisting the Conservation Committee with promoting Somersworth's Community Habitat Certification on the city's TV channel this spring.

Mike Bobinsky reported in a previous meeting that the City received six (6) solar array proposals for constructing a solar array development at the Blackwater Road Superfund site. Staff conducted initial interviews with all six (6) proposers and narrowed the list down to top 3 firms for further consideration. Staff recommended to the City Council Public Works and Environment and the Finance Committees that

Ameresco be selected as the top firm to start the negotiation process. The Committee will be kept informed on progress and latest information.

Wendy discussed the food composting program that is currently underway at the Somersworth Middle School and will speak with the vendor that hauls the composting bins away, to obtain data on compost volume generated since program inception.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION ITEMS -**

- All members will continue to look at the draft Framework and Goals/Action List and be prepared to state what they feel should be prioritized before the next meeting. Sarah will send out updated Goals/Action list before the next meeting.
- Wendy will follow-up on food composting volume information.

Mike Bobinsky moved and Lilac seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm

**Submitted and prepared by:** Michael Bobinsky