

Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting

December 14, 2011, 8:00-9:30 AM

At Dartmouth Planning, Design, and Construction (4 Currier Place)

Hanover, NH,

Meetings January 11 and 18, 8:00-9:30 @

Christmas tree recycling will be Saturday, January 14, 2012

Attendees: Larry Litten (Chair), Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Mary Ann Cadwallader (Recorder), Chris Kennedy, Marjorie Rogalski, Susan Edwards, Joanna Whitcomb (Dartmouth Dir. of Campus Planning & Facilities), Yolanda Baumgartner, Rosi Kerr (Dartmouth Director of Sustainability), Jenna Musco (Dartmouth Sustainability Intern), David McManus.

Guests: Jim Howard (Concord resident working on a UNH Sustainable Communities Study), Brett Tofel and Steven Tofel from ReKnew Energy Systems, Ryan Borkowski, (Hanover Building Inspector).

Minutes Approved: November Minutes approved.

Action Items:

Larry, Julia, and Rosi will put together a list of who to talk to in Hanover about what's working and what's lacking in our sustainability effort..

Rosi and Julia will meet with **David, Chris, and Joanna** in January to put together a plan for a celebration that will generate excitement around acting sustainably and leading others to do so.

Agenda Items:

1. Recycling: Peter has begun negotiating the Town's contract with Northeast Waste. This time around he's found them willing to discuss downtown recycling, curbside and downtown single stream, and even an on-site composting pilot for downtown. He's also in conversation with the solid waste district in Concord which has a MERF coming on line. We have until May to decide whether to join the coalition of towns in Concord's district. Dartmouth wants to be kept informed.

Some cautionary remarks about single stream included:

Single stream 3-7 plastics go to Asia so are high mileage. We may wish, therefore, to point residents toward recycling #5 at the Coop.

We decided that asking Northeast Waste to inform us about where our recyclables go will make them cognizant of our concern about the chain of recycling and keep it before all of us. Dartmouth will join us in this.

Numbers 1-3 plastics have the highest value with the value of the others descending as their numbers go up. Mohawk carpets use some of the higher end plastics. The rest are usually sold as 'commodity'. Asia buys a lot of this.

With this in mind, we noted that 0 Sort will increase recycling as a whole but won't encourage people to be careful consumers that try to only use products packaged in 1, 2, or 3 level plastic.

The importance of communication with the users in all issues of waste and recycling must be kept in mind and is part of our mission. Simple visual cues at the site of waste disposal and simplicity in messaging in a continuing education program are working at Dartmouth.

FYI Dave Allen has left Hartford.

2. James Howard re: UNH Sustainable Communities Study: Jim Howard is studying what some towns are doing about sustainability with the hope of encouraging regional and private-public partnerships. We commented that we've benefited greatly from Dartmouth's and the Coop's expertise and initiatives. CleanAir/CoolPlanet was cited as a group that's trying to create a network to share towns' initiatives and successes. Jim and others' research supported by Businesses for Social Responsibility will allow the sharing of successful organizing ideas, strategies, and partnerships among towns.

Larry, Julia, and Rosi will put together a list of who to talk to in Hanover about what's working and what's lacking in our sustainability effort.

3. Report on meeting with J. Rebman of Hanover Chamber: Casella (NE Waste) Has been a roadblock in an effort to get downtown recycling, but Peter is hopeful that this is changing.

The Chamber, having just finished an awards event that honored sustainable businesses said they wouldn't assume leadership in an annual recognition/celebration of those taking leadership to promote sustainability.

Instead, Rosi and Julia will meet with David, Chris, and Joanna in January to put together a plan for a celebration that will generate excitement around acting sustainably and leading others to do so.

5. ReKnew Energy and Norwich partnership: Steven and Brett Tofel spoke to us about their part in the Solarize Norwich Project. Because of the efforts of the Norwich Energy Committee to find a large number of buyers, ReKnew was able to offer participating Norwich homeowners lower prices for installation of solar electricity generation (PV) The

Committee collected the buyers that made this possible through a political campaign model of a kick-off meeting and then several house parties. ReKnew picked up the mailings cost. With the more favorable Vermont state subsidies and the federal subsidies available to all states, they projected a 9-10 year payback on an average household's electrical use.

The next steps for Sustainable. Hanover if they wished to promote this would be to find a point person to work with ReKnew, to design a program to recruit folks with a kickoff for the whole town.

See attached and www.solarizenorwich.com

4. Code revisions: Chris Kennedy and Ryan Borkowski spoke to the possibility of inclusion in the building code of recycling percentages—60% for small residential contractors and 75% for others--and energy efficiency testing with blower-door tests. The air-exchange recommendation would be changed from 7.5 to 5 and finally to 3 after 2 years. Details such as the size of the project when these regulations would kick-in would still have to be worked out.

The Committee had suggestions and questions:

Shouldn't we take a second look to make sure we've found the lowest hanging fruit, the experience of other towns with regulation, etc. before we embark on this long process of legislating and getting contractors and citizens on board. For example, what about some sort of point system for renewable rooftop energy? Should we examine the ICC code point system for other 'fruit'? Should we talk to the folks in Keene, to the landfill?

In fact, how could the Town involve contractors to get their buy in and their expertise on foreseeing the problems they'd have with recycling and energy efficiency like where they'd put the 2nd dumpster required if recycling without some Town help with parking. They might know best where recyclables could be taken? The Town might be able to help them keep the costs down for the homeowner; by negotiating lower prices on blower-door tests. They might have ideas on how best to track their compliance or ways to work together to save costs.

What about piloting with contractors and honoring those who comply.

We could approach homeowners with an on-line primer on how they could work with contractors to make the building process and the finished product more sustainable..

Ryan was supportive of Chris's ideas but along with others suggested persuasion with incentives like lower permit fees would be the way to get compliance. Traditional enforcement mechanisms are probably too expensive for the Town to consider right now.

The questions of how to format the proposal and how to get compliance remain. The process for something as big as this would require Town Meeting approval. The finished

proposal would go through the Planning Board and become a warrant for the Town Meeting.

Time was up before we could put together an action plan for working on Code Revision. The following items remained on our Agenda as well so Larry has called for 2 meetings in January.

5-7. Residential energy audits (Baumgartner)

6-8. Other initiatives in town – Coop Expo, LWV series (Litten)

7-9. Kiosk updating (Litten)

8-10. Master recycling list – see Madison Recyclopedia model, pp. 19-23 (Litten)

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/documents/recyclopedia.pdf>

9-11. Scouting sustainability models from other communities (Litten)

10-12. SHC goals for 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Cadwallader, recorder