

## **Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting**

February 15, 2012, 8:30-10:00 AM

Town Hall

Hanover, NH,

**Next Meeting March, 21, 2012, 8:30-10:00 @ Town Hall**

**Attendees:** Larry Litten (Chair), Bill Geraghty (Selectboard Chair) Mary Ann Cadwallader (Recorder), Chris Kennedy, Susan Edwards, Rosi Kerr (Dartmouth Director of Sustainability), Jenna Musco (Dartmouth Sustainability Intern), David McManus, Yolanda Baumgartner.

**Guests:** Jim Howard (Concord resident working on a UNH Sustainable Communities Study)

### **Minutes Approved:**

### **Action Items:**

**All-**Jim Howard is still looking for input for his research on sustainability committee from SHC members

**Larry and Susan** will meet about the timing of the sustainable business awards, a process for obtaining nominations and making award(s), and keep Rosi in the loop.

**Larry** will repair the kiosk, if needed.

**Larry** will ask Roger Lohr if he will make an Idling Awareness poster for our kiosk.

**Mary Ann** will ask Lyn to find the quotes we produced earlier for use on the kiosk.

**Mary Ann** will ask Lyn about new ways to keep and update an upcoming events list on the web.

**Susan** will post information about the League's Sustainable Landscape and Yardwork event on the kiosk.

**All-**Save March 31<sup>st</sup> for the Coop's Expo. or the New Hampshire's Energy Seminar Day.

**Chris K.** will send information about the Upper V. Energy Roundtable, May 24?, sponsored by SERGE and Vital Communities. All the area town's energy committees (25) report out on their initiatives and then there are usually break-out groups or a talk.

**David** will call other vendors and check with Norwich about their experience with ReKnew and email us his findings.

**Mary Ann** will talk with Barbara Duncan about the UV sustainability movie spreadsheet, the Sierra Club's plans, and use of their movies next year.

Earlier Action Items not yet reported on:

**Rosi** will show How Dartmouth works videos at our next meeting.

**Julia** will find out how many energy audits National Grid will do for Hanover.

**Julia** will speak with Kevin Peterson about funding for improvements made after the audit.

**Julia** will ask Alex Hanson about writing an article in the Valley News on Chris's work and the Hanover To Done list.

**David** will look into 1-2 indicators (like BTU's per square foot) for each of our 5 goals.

**Chris S.** will meet with **David** to discuss indicators to include on an easy spreadsheet to track records going forward.

**Marjorie** will call Bob Walker about indicators for the spreadsheet.

**Chris K.** will meet with George Murray the new manager of the Lebanon Landfill.

**Chris K.** will work with Ryan Borkowski to draft an invitation to a meeting to discuss code revisions, or other means, for promoting construction waste recycling and building envelope sealing in construction.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Reviewed and approved Annual Report (Litten)

2. **Recycling** contract (Kulbacki)-Our contract with Northeast Waste for recyclables ends in April 2013. The cost of our present program will go up and we will be even further from our goal of adding business recycling to the Town's recycling program if we accept NEWastes' 2013 contract offer. Peter is investigating a way to move to single stream for both residents and downtown businesses without raising the recycling budget. The factors in play are creating a place for storage of recyclables, centralizing downtown locations for recyclables, leasing the vehicle for curbside pickup, hauling to a MERF and determining the best MRF to take the recyclables to, one that is big enough to interest markets for recyclables but that isn't too far from Hanover. Recyclables have value and their sale should help defray the cost of their collection. Peter will have more to report next month.

3. **Awards** for Business Sustainability- Chris K., Rosi, Larry, and Julia met to discuss this. They thought there should be an award offered to a large and a small business. Dartmouth has agreed to fold these awards into their Earth Week celebration (April 16-21) when their awards to celebrate sustainable practices on campus are given. Their hope is to have an event at Collis Common Ground on Saturday of this week. If we are to participate in Dartmouth's generous offer to host the event, we need to decide upon a process for choosing the businesses, the award we'd like to give, and then to make our choice in the next few weeks. Getting townspeople to come to the event is, of course, our responsibility as well. Larry and Susan will consult next week and talk with Julia in order to decide whether we can take advantage of Dartmouth's offer on this short notice. If so, then, how to proceed? They will keep Rosi in the loop. The Monadnock Forum's criterion for business sustainability could be used.

4. **Kiosk** posters (Litten)-Larry will repair the kiosk as needed. Larry will ask Roger Lohr if he will make an Idling Awareness poster for our kiosk. Mary Ann will ask Lyn to find the quotes we produced earlier for use on the kiosk and send them to Larry. Susan will secure a poster for the League's Sustainable Landscape and Yardwork event from Barbara McIlroy and post it on the kiosk in the library.

Chris K. showed us the two panels, one on weatherization and the other on climate change) that will be going up next on the kiosk. He made them in-house for about \$27. The cost of the board, which could be reused, was around \$15 and the printing of the pair of posters was \$12. The latter price assumes that they're printed in pairs.

The kiosk and a plant pots tower advertising plant pot recycling will be at the Coop's Expo, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**5. Energy audits** (McManus)- David is a National Grid customer and has had one of their audits. When he called they were responsive and scheduled his audit quickly.

For the \$100 energy audit fee, David received a blower door test, a combustion analysis that measured carbon in the air to test his furnace's efficiency, a walk-through which dealt with plugging in information about his home's construction, furnace, hot water heater, roof insulation, etc. to determine what steps might be taken for energy conservation, and a thermal imaging that showed where the cold spots were. He qualified for this service as a National Grid customer and called National Grid New Hampshire Saves at 1-800-787-1706. These tests are best done between November and March so the window for this year is almost closed. David will write up his experience, however, so that we can encourage folks to take advantage of this next year.

David noted that you can't use your wood stove during a blower door test which involves creating a slight vacuum in the house and then releasing puffs of smoke to show where the air/heat is escaping. David followed the technician and marked the problem places with chalk and took a picture. SERG will do these photos and a more complete report for \$500. The technicians make their recommendations on site; for example, David was advised to insulate his sill and given an estimate of the cost and the payback. His biggest surprise, though, was when the technician unscrewed his incandescent light bulbs and gave him replacement energy efficient bulbs at no cost.

Peter Gray's conservation services group [petergray@csgrip.com](mailto:petergray@csgrip.com) was also mentioned in connection with this kind of testing. The client wouldn't have to be a customer in this case.

It was noted that energy audits and other direct feedback work more effectively than generalized information in encouraging change. Injunctive norms like speaking of what the top 20% do to conserve in some area or stating what 80% of your neighbors have done work well, too.

**6. Ongoing energy doings:** Chris K. is sending out information today for us to look at about town building codes. Chris S. has confirmed a time to speak at Thayer on Hanover emissions. He, David and Lyn will meet again. Chris S. is producing a 2 pager for the Town Report which could be used in some form on the kiosk.

**7. ReKnew's proposal** has come to us with special prices for Hanover. David has talked to Ledyard about a preferential loan rate. We thought it best to wait to invite ReKnew to a meeting until we contacted some other vendors and checked with Norwich about their experience with ReKnew. David will call other vendors and check with Norwich and email us his findings.

**8. Film series** (Litten) –Transition Towns and the White River Coop have co-sponsored a Thursday night film series on sustainability. Next year we could partner with folks in

White River and show the same film on different nights of the week. Larry suggested SHC host a film series late on winter Sunday afternoons at the Black Center. Barbara Duncan said that the Sierra Club is putting some money together to buy movies and had a spreadsheet of where films are shown in the Upper Valley. Mary Ann will talk with Barbara about the spreadsheet, the Sierra Club's plans, and use of their movies next year.

**9. Website updating:** Recently, Larry noticed that our website contained upcoming events long-gone-by. Mary Ann will talk with Lyn about how best to deal with this. We could take down the upcoming events page and ask the Town to include our upcoming events on their website. Does the Town manage other town committees' websites? Do they have a calendar of upcoming events? Should we meet with Cory and Julia about how to use the Town's website to advertise our upcoming events and how they keep current?

**10. March meeting:** Larry will be out-of-town in March but we decided to meet at 8:30 at the Town Hall, Wednesday, March 21. This unfinished business could be on our agenda:

- Peter Kulbacki's update on recycling contract
- Decision re: sustainable business awards ceremony at Dartmouth
- Decision about how to move forward with ReKnew's offer
- Showing of Dartmouth students' sustainability videos
- Decision about how to post upcoming events

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Cadwallader, recorder