

Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting

May 16, 2012, 8:30-10:00 AM

Town Hall
Hanover, NH

Next Meetings June 13, 2012, 8:30-10:00 @ Town Hall, July 11, 2012 (the second Wednesday)

Plant Pot Recycling -- 3rd Saturdays from 9-noon: June 16, July 21, August 18, Sept 15 at Longacres

Hanover Yard Sale, Saturday, September 1, from 11 am - 3-pm at Dartmouth's Dewey Field Parking Lot

Attendees: Larry Litten (Chair), Mary Ann Cadwallader (Recorder), Susan Edwards, Yolanda Baumgartner, Chris Soderquist, Marjorie Rogalski, David McManus, Jenna Musco (Dartmouth Sustainability Fellow).

Guest: Barbara Duncan (Director of the Catamount Earth Institute).

Minutes Approved: April 18, 2012 Minutes approved.

Action Items:

David McManus will identify other companies besides ReKnew that could present proposals for group purchases of solar equipment.

David will tell Peter K. about Evolutions new solar energy technology.

Chris S. will arrange a meeting in early June with Vital Communities for Mary Ann and himself to explore SHC collaborations on business sustainability advancement.

Larry and Peter will meet with Julia and Hannah Kennedy to work out an internship.

Minutes:

1. Update on electronic recycling (Edwards): Electronics recycling at the DPW site with WinCycle, a Windsor, VT based company, went well. We collected 6,000 pounds of electronic waste even though Systems Plus's recycling was just 2 weeks earlier. WinCycle contacted us so we will do another one when contacted again. Mark Morgan is now in charge there. Electronics are stripped down for parts or recycled. Anything sent out for processing is sent to ethical places.

2. Using our business awards to advance business sustainability: How do we ask or empower the businesses who received our award (6 South Street, Hypertherm, Domus, and the Coop) to share their experience with sustainable practice? Should we ask winners to speak of their best practices at Rotary or the Chamber? Would Hypertherm do an open house? Chris S. has a Jones Seminar on line that could be shared as well with these groups.

Next year we may wish to limit the award to a specific area of energy savings like transportation. We may want to be specific about an expectation that winners share their

expertise or help involve others in sustainable practices. What follows are some more ideas specific to the business community.

Meet with winners and representatives from the Chamber to ask how we could move things forward in the business community.

Get business recycling going in Hanover.

Ask the Chamber for one of their meetings to speak about an initiative for saving energy or sharing a checklist for the award.

In general get the Chamber's members interested in the award or better still in sustainable practice as its own reward.

The committee concluded that it would be wise to find out more about what Vital Communities is doing with businesses to encourage and reward sustainability before proceeding further on this front. We could partner with them, promote their initiatives in Hanover, or be a pilot test for one or more of their initiatives. Therefore . . .

3. Chris S. will contact Vital Communities and set up a date in early June for him and Mary Ann to meet with their staff about VC's business-oriented initiatives, especially their energy and transportation initiatives. They will also find out about regional actions VC is developing and whether they are looking for towns to pilot an initiative.

4. Internship proposals for H. Kennedy: Peter and Larry met with Julia to discuss an internship for Hannah. They will propose working on composting with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning, working with Lyn Miller on the SHC Website bringing it up-to-date (and perhaps maintaining the website from Scotland or preparing it to be kept up by Teri Jillson at Public Works), creating a year's worth of posters for the kiosk around our themes. Chris K. produces and laminates the posters so this seemed a natural. In addition, Julia Griffin is interested in coordinating street banners and posters with our themes. So we need to make a schedule.

5. Proposal from Barbara Duncan for SHC / Collaboration: Barbara has been working with groups and communities for 16 years to further sustainable practices. This year Barbara has facilitated groups in the study of the relationship between human and environmental health. She has books of readings that encourage discussion and action. She's worked with businesses on problem-solving and setting goals for saving energy. She could work with our business leaders in this way. She's found in her work that people really wanted to align their values with action.

Whatever kind of educating we do, we should try to get feedback about the barriers to action. We need information about what is effective in creating change.

How then might we work together to educate, encourage, and support action that addresses issues of sustainability in Hanover:

-Organizing groups in neighborhoods and churches and empowering students to educate their parents.

-Using Barbara's materials and expertise in setting up neighborhood study-to-action groups.

-Using Barbara's model for business leaders' problem-solving.

- Asking the Howe to buy the books of readings mentioned above to loan to groups.
- Concentrating on one issue like conserving energy in transportation (a carbon challenge) in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools.
- Using Chris S. program to educate and chart our progress.
- Inspiring others with local examples.
- Asking the winners of our awards to join our discussion of how to inspire other businesses in setting energy conservation goals.
- Using a checklist for good practice in business and households.

6. Solar Initiatives: Before we bring ReKnew's proposal to the public, we must make some comparisons with similar companies. David McManus will look into this. David reported on a new private capital solar technology initiative. Flat school roofs are perfect places for their installations. Clay Mitchell, owner of Evolution, and Peter Kulbacki should talk.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Cadwallader, Recorder