

Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting

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

Town Hall

Hanover, NH,

Next Meeting July 11, 2012 (the second Wednesday)

8:30-10:00 @ Town Hall

Attendees: Larry Litten (Chair), Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Peter Kulbacki (Public Works), Mary Ann Cadwallader (Recorder), Susan Edwards, Chris Kennedy, Chris Soderquist, Marjorie Rogalski, Jenna Musco (Dartmouth Sustainability Fellow).

Minutes Approved: May 16, 2012 Minutes approved.

Action Items:

Larry will write a letter-to the-editor or find someone who will to announce the change to single stream recycling and explain what it means at the curb.

Chris S. will continue to work with Megan Shannon and a Dartmouth intern hired by Vital Communities on data sharing.

Julia Griffin will promote the Vital Communities Business Forum with the Chamber and Hanover Business Council. (**Chris S.** will inform Megan of this.)

Chris please check for other ()'s below to include in call to Megan.

Julia will contact Vanessa Rule re: Climate Change Summer cyclists connecting with day camps in Hanover, speaking at Rotary. She will find out if they'd be interested in talking with Chris S. about data to use in their advocacy.

Julia will handle publicity for the Town aspect of the CCS.

Marjorie will get these the events planned for CCS in Hanover into the calendar.

Larry will ask Lyn if she can be the Sustainable Hanover contact during the CCS week as others in the Committee are out of town that week.

Larry will ask Hannah K. if she can help out with CCS.

Julia will continue to work on her idea for the Tween Camp banner making.

Larry will continue his work with Hannah Kennedy.

Larry will send Julia Barbara Duncan's email.

Julia will follow up about a co-sponsorship of the Catamount Institute course.

Julia will set up a meeting with principals during the first week in July.

Mary Ann and Larry will go with Julia to talk with principals.

Jenna will see if one of the sustainability interns would like a community focus and would work on this project.

Julia will look into having a link to Sustainable Hanover on the main page of the Town's website.

Agenda:

1. Update on recycling (Kulbacki):

-Northeast Waste will present a plan for business recycling and the Town will decide whether it's cheaper for Northeast Waste or the Town to do it. There will be centralized sites downtown for business' trash and recycling.

-Single stream recycling was announced in the Town Meeting mailing. Larry will write a letter-to the-editor or find someone who will to reiterate the change and to explain what single stream means at the curb.

2. Advancing business sustainability: Megan Shannon (Vital Communities), Chris Soderquist, and Mary Ann Cadwallader met to find out Vital Communities plans for promoting sustainability among regional businesses and to discuss collaboration. Their discussion resulted in:

-Vital Communities sharing the information from their survey of 120 small businesses in the region with Chris who plans to extract the Hanover data.

-And Chris' agreement to share his work with Vital Communities so that their intern can adapt it for regional use

-as well as an agreement to give a presentation at VC's fall Business Forum.

-In addition, SH will partner with VC's Business Forum (probably in September) by encouraging Hanover businesses participation.

-Julia Griffin will promote this with the Chamber and Hanover Business Council which has a listserv. (Chris will inform Megan of this.)

-We asked that there be an opportunity to get data from the participants of the Forum and that in addition to time for sharing best practices, issues and needs that there be time for brainstorming actions on regional issues at the Forum.

-Members of the committee wanted Chris to ask Megan to consider adding data from Vital Communities' initiatives in energy and transportation to the Local First Alliance data she already has. (**Chris**).

The Committee also wanted to tell Megan about NHDES' Greening Your Business (**Chris**).

3. Climate Change Summer: Larry, Marjorie, Julia, Jenna, Jessie Levin met with Vanessa Rule the coordinator of Climate Change Summer activities in Hanover. The college cyclists from Climate Change Summer (CCS) will be here to advocate for sustainability, July 16-19.

-Julia suggested that we put the CCS students in touch with kids going to our summer day camps—Dragon Fly at Ray School, Montshire and VINS' camps. It's hoped that the campers will spread the word about the Climate Change Summer students' presentation at the Howe on Thursday night.

-Events planned for the group include: meeting with Cat Buxton at Cedar Circle, Wednesday night at Dartmouth (Jenna), Thursday night presentation by the group at the Howe, Information table Saturday AM in front of Town Hall.

-Marjorie will get these and the rest of the events planned for their week in Hanover into the calendar.

-Larry will ask Lyn if she can be the Sustainable Hanover contact during the CCS week as others in the Committee are out of town that week. He will also ask Hannah K. if she can help out.

4. Local energy initiatives--report from the Energy Roundtable: Chris Kennedy attended the Upper Valley Energy Roundtable in May. Twenty-five towns and the planning commissions were represented. Someone from each town summarized their work in the area of energy conservation and/or sustainability. Chris reported that encouraging energy audits and weatherization, energy fairs, and the forming of town committees were the actions most often mentioned. Chris had 3-4 inquiries about Chris S. model.

-Simon Dennis, a new Board member from Hartford, asked Chris what he thought about sharing a sustainability coordinator between Hanover, Hartford, and Lebanon.

-At our meeting, Julia recommended that such a coordinator be housed in a regional planning commission. In this case, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission whose executive director, Christine Walker, has good synergy with Hartford even though it's not a member would be the logical choice. It was suggested that Vital Communities might get representatives of the 3 towns together to write a job description for a sustainability coordinator. We could look for funding from HUD's Liveable Communities or the RUS USDA solid waste Assessment and regional food composting initiatives.

Three presentations were given that day: Bob Walker of Thetford Heat and SERGE spoke about ramping up energy audits and the weatherization of homes. In order to meet their goal, 30 homes a year would have to complete the weatherization process. They increased their number from 8 to 20 last year. **Julia** will check into the funding they used.

-A speaker from Hartland talked about a solar energy project that was tied to a neighborhood that had similarities to Norwich's plan. **David McManus** might be interested in the analysis of the funding and tax implications.

-The last speaker spoke of how to get small grants for grass roots projects in New England.

Chris was impressed with Hartford's energy committee's work. Hartford is just finishing their energy plan and **Julia** will ask Hunter R. for a copy of it when it's done.

5. H. Kennedy internship (Litten): Hannah K. will help with posters for the kiosk, work with Lyn on the website and on banners for the Town. Julia thinks that the Tween Camp could make banners advocating sustainability. Janet Ray could be asked to lead the activity. The kids could pick the themes in the area of climate change. This could become an annual activity for the Tweens. Images could be used on the kiosk as well.

6. Barbara Duncan's proposals: We decided to co-sponsor the Coop's study group, but that our main community activity will be a winter film festival held on Sunday afternoons—films at 4:00 with soup and discussion at 6:00. We still need to investigate the use of Hartland's and the Sierra Club's films. Larry will send Julia Barbara's email and Julia will follow up about a co-sponsorship of the course.

7. Planning for SHC's future (Griffin): Who's going to lead Sustainable Hanover after Larry leaves the Committee? How can we best attract new members? Should we bifurcate the committee around project specific needs like streetlights, solar arrays and event specific needs like the yard sale? There's also the function of gathering information and education of the public. Should we bifurcate education and action? We thought that the committee would need to be larger in order to do this.

Larry introduced the Portsmouth Listen model for a town meeting as a way to grow interest in sustainability by listening to citizens' concerns around sustainability. If we were to have this kind of meeting, we would also want to measure and document what the Town (Julia's To Done List) and citizens are doing. The annual listening meeting could create 3-4 task groups to act upon the needs expressed at listening sessions.

-Dan Nelson's name was suggested for the moderator, late October or the first week in November for the time.

How do we recruit people to come?

-Would a group energy buy bring them out?

-Julia suggested going to the schools and listening to the students' concerns and then showcasing their concerns and perhaps their writing and art work around their concerns at the Listen-in town meeting. (We've listened to our kids and here's what they're saying.) Some listening to and recording of children's concerns could also be done with the help of the Climate Change Summer cyclists. Perhaps student councils at the schools could be involved and student leaders might present student concerns at the Listen-in. Julia will set up a meeting with principals during the first week in July. Mary Ann and Larry will go with Julia to talk with principals.

-Jenna will see if one of Dartmouth's sustainability interns would like a community focus and would work on this project.

-Hypertherm and the Coop could be approached for sponsorship. (Who?)

At the end of the Listen-in we want to have those 3-4 task groups for participants to sign up for. How can this be done authentically if we listen most of the day? Could we use the day to recruit for the Committee with the promise

that it would address the students' and citizens' issues in some way?

Julia will look into having a link to Sustainable Hanover on the main page of the Town's website as we are a permanent Town committee.

No answer was given to the question of Larry Litten's replacement.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Cadwallader, Recorder