

Minutes approved March 27, 2013

Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting

February 6, 2013, 8:30-10:00 AM

Town Hall, Hanover, NH,

Next Meeting March 20, 2013

8:30-10:00 @ Town Hall

Attendees: David McManus (Chair), Chris Kennedy, Lyn Miller, Mary Ann Cadwallader (Recorder), Yolanda Baumgartner, Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Peter Kulbacki (Public Works), Jenna Musco (Dartmouth Sustainability),

Minutes Approved: January 16, 2013 Minutes approved, moved and seconded by Chris/Yolanda. Dates on the top should be changed to 2013.

Action Items:

David will change the dates at the top of the Minutes and send them to Peter.

Chris K. will send out a calendar for the Committee's review.

The Committee may add changes to the calendar.

Jenna will import Dartmouth dates to the calendar.

Lyn will act on suggestions made by the Committee as she continues working with Betsy Smith on the calendar.

Calendar: Chris K. will send out a calendar for the Committee's review and changes. The Committee will decide in March what part of the calendar will go on the Town's Sustainability/Recycling Calendar. We'll need to discuss calendar management if the Committee decides to keep a separate calendar.

News from Public Works: Peter approached Northeast Waste about commercial recycling in Hanover. They wanted to charge the Town, which in this budget climate means we'll have to look for another alternative. There is after all a market for recyclables.

Julia and Peter have met with Mark Morgan to consult about what we might do re: commercial recycling.

They are also meeting with other communities about composting and hazardous waste. Dealing with these waste streams regionally is best. Sustainable Hanover has pushed this. But the NH Legislature has made composting very difficult because their limits to the size of the operation make an economy of scale impossible. Vermont, on the other hand, is encouraging composting,

actually requiring it in the future. There, Act 250 is the regulator. Bob Sanderson is talking with VT. But he already composts for Kendal, the Hanover schools, and the Coop.

Mark Morgan is working with Cornish and running into the NH regulations. Composting has to be made cheaper than using the landfill.

We want to cooperate in our region, rather than compete when it comes to recycling. The Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission has a grant to get regional composting and hazardous waste sites going. Vicki Davis of the Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Comm. Is working on this and meeting with our town representatives.

We feel that hazardous waste collection has to happen more than twice a year. Hartford has stepped forward to be the site for this. In the interim, Hanover residents should check the Lebanon Landfill website lists for what they will accept.

Energy Initiative: Despite delays with the iphone app., Lyn expects that it will be ready to be tested in late February and that the Sustainable Hanover Energy Initiative can still be launched in the schools during Earth Week as planned.

So far, Ray School has made energy savings in transportation a theme for Earth Day. An interactive session on capturing and using data with Chris S. is planned at the high school. A proposed poster contest at Ray and Richmond Schools on ways to save energy could provide posters and a banner for advertising the initiative.

The activities at the schools will create an audience for a conversation about the initiative and provide the impetus for participating in the program. Families will have a list of things they can do to lower energy consumption.

The Town's striping of Valley Road probably will not precede the 'Safe Routes for walking and biking to school' plan's introduction Earth Week. The latter plan will be presented to the Board in late March.

(Some stats. for Chris S.: Caroline Radisch has the DOT's biannual traffic studies for Hanover. No one is collecting bicycle numbers.

Andy Hill's Desmond survey, which had a 33% response rate, asked what kind of transportation respondents used to come to work in Hanover. Bike riders were less than 1%, walkers 6.5% even though 52% of residents lived within 2 miles of the center of Hanover at last count. There's a parking study on the Town's homepage.)

Vicki Smith's neighborhood initiative to improve communication in the Town could help residents make connections for carpooling, as well as aid us with data collection on composting etc. in the future.

Apropos to the Energy Initiative, Julia is working with others to encourage carpooling (in the face of the strong possibility that The Upper Valley Rideshare will lose its state funding) and is a member of the Route 120 Planning Committee, which discusses the traffic implications of development there among other issues.

Website (Lyn): Redesigning the website forced conversations about our structure as well as our message. A look at the Town Boards and Committees indicates that 60% of them address issues of sustainability. The website offers the opportunity to link to them. We also anticipate meeting with all of them to share what is being done and to discuss what could be done in the area of sustainability.

The Committee is seeing its role today as one of making connections and giving input to the Planning Commission and the Selectboard, which, in turn, will incorporate measureable goals for sustainability into their programs and planning process. Lebanon's planning document, found on its website, was mentioned as a good example of the integration of sustainability into town planning. We look forward to working with the new planning director, having input in the new Master Plan; in general, having a relationship with the Town that we can be accountable for. The Sustainability Committee, then, will act as a clearinghouse for ideas and will provide programs and tools on certain initiatives for which they'll have goals and keep data.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Cadwallader, Recorder