

## **Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting Minutes**

November 18, 2015

Members attending: Yolanda Baumgartner, Mary Donin, Susan Edwards, Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Chris Kennedy, Peter Kulbacki (Public Works), Larry Litten, David McManus (chair), Jenna Musco (Dartmouth College), Marjorie Rogalski.

Guests: Ariel Arwen (Lebanon Energy Committee), Judy Colla (Upper Valley Sierra Club), Ally Samuell (NextGen), Gunnar Blix (TWACA)

### **To-dos from the meeting**

**David** will ascertain how much money is in the SHC account.

**Yolanda and Jenna** will work with the Sierra Club group to develop a program on what it would look like for Hanover to be 100% renewable energy.

**Yolanda** will develop energy efficiency content for the SHC Website.

**Julia** will determine whether NH state policies permit the local prohibition of Styrofoam containers. She will try again to obtain renewable energy data from the Coop for our EPA Green Power Partner submission. She will check with the regional planning commission about the recycling of smoke detectors.

**Susan** will check with the Hanover fire chief about recycling smoke detectors.

**Julia, Margery, Peter, and Yolanda** will meet prior to the December Committee meeting to discuss the next steps for our Green Power initiative..

**Committee members** will research the use of Styrofoam containers by local businesses.

### **Meeting**

#### **Agenda**

Approve October Minutes

Update from UV Sierra Club

Upstate from Larry on Landscape Working Group, Community Training in Ecological Design Workshop

Button Up workshop summary

Recycling report - Styrofoam & Polystyrene?

Green Power Community next steps

## **Discussion and Actions**

### Approve October Minutes

Approved.

### Committee/staff attendance at the UNH Extension Ecological Design Workshop

Tabled until December meeting when the SHC account balance is known. David will determine what we have.

### Recycling report - Styrofoam & Polystyrene

Gunnar Blix presented a request written by his son on behalf of a team of Richmond Middle School students who are competing in a regional Lego contest that requires a community service component. They are requesting SHC help in the development of a Styrofoam program that could involve a periodic collection of Styrofoam for delivery to a processing plant in Massachusetts and prohibiting the use of Styrofoam packaging (cups, take-out containers, etc.) by local businesses. The Committee agreed to meet with the students at their convenience. Julia will determine whether NH state law permits such a local prohibition. Committee members will research the use of Styrofoam containers by local businesses.

### Update from Upper Valley Sierra Club

Judi Colla reported that a proposal had gone to the national Sierra Club for one of their three grants of up to \$50,000 for what are called "Forward" Funds to help Hanover, and then the Upper Valley, find a pathway to being 100% renewable energy by 2050. The funds would support interns who could do research and workshops based on the research.

She also reported that the local Club is starting to think about a forum on "What Does 100% Renewables Look Like?" that would be co-sponsored by the Upper Valley Sierra Club, NexGen, and Sustainable Hanover. It would be based on the work of Mark Jacobson at Stanford University, who would be the desired speaker. The goal would be an event in late January or February. Yolanda and Jenna will work with the Sierra Club group to develop this program.

### Update on Landscape Working Group

The Landscape Working Group has decided to concentrate initially on storm water retention (primarily water-slowing barrier plantings due to the clay soils of Hanover) and lawn substitution. Larry, Lyn Swett Miller, and Judith Reeve are seeking a meeting with Julia to discuss the implementation of demonstration projects on town property and ways to work with private developments to implement exemplary practices during construction.

or renovation. The principal problem with rain gardens is maintenance—Adopt-a-Garden program (like Adopt-a-Highway programs) might help, although people lose their commitments or move away.

The Working Group should explore the promotion and sale of rain barrels, a Town initiative that has lapsed.

#### Green Power Community update and next steps

Our EPA Partnership renewal will be submitted shortly; Julia will try again to get the relevant data from the Coop. We need to ramp up our promotion of energy efficiency (perhaps with a visible indicator such as Norwich's "wrapped light post.") Yolanda will develop energy efficiency content for the SHC Website.

The focus of the December SHC meeting will be next steps on the Green Power Community front. Julia, Margery, Peter, and Yolanda will meet prior to the Committee meeting to discuss this.

#### Recycling sub-committee report

Susan asked about recycling smoke detectors. Julia will check with the regional planning commission about recycling them at the regional collections; Susan will check with the fire chief.

Casella is seeking a 35% increase in the contract for curbside recycling, necessitating a review of our options.

#### Other

The Town has been approached by the Hot Zero initiative as a possible site for the development of bio-mass-based multi-user hot water system using federal funds.

#### New Member

The Committee welcomed Mary Donin following her appointment by the Selectmen.

Prepared by Larry Litten.