

Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2016

Members attending: Yolanda Baumgartner, Maryann Cadwallader, Mary Donin, Susan Edwards, Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Chris Kennedy, Peter Kulbacki (Public Works), Larry Litten, David McManus (chair). Guest: Judi Colla (Sierra Club)

To-dos from the meeting

Larry will send the Hollistan energy aggregation Web site to Julia; **Julia** or **Peter** will ascertain whether New Hampshire law permits such a program.

Larry will seek to engage the Hanover Garden Club in the sustainable landscapes initiative.

Peter will continue to work on a town-managed curbside program and community solar options.

Meeting

Agenda

- Approve December Minutes
- Recycling Update from Susan E
- Landscape Working Group Update from Larry L
- Town Updates - CPACE etc - Julia & Peter
- Update on Solar Net Metering in NH
- Green Power Update from Yolanda, 1/20 Forum last reminder
- Energy Efficiency Award - <http://www.neep.org/initiatives/business-leaders/new-hampshire>. Bob Reals wants to see if we want to work with him on it

January minutes

The January minutes were approved with the correction of the attendee list by the addition of Mary Donin.

UNH Extension Ecological Design Workshop

Chris informed the committee that he was not going to be able to attend the workshop for which the committee had approved partial funding. No one else was able to replace him.

Forum on a 100% renewables future.

Judi Colla described the forum to be held later in the day of the meeting that Sustainable Hanover is co-sponsoring, including a Skype connection with Marc Jacobson of Stanford University as the keynote speaker.

Net-metering hearing in Concord

Peter reported on the net-metering hearing in the New Hampshire Senate. Testimony was largely in favor of raising or removing the present cap. The utilities oppose cap removal arguing

that it creates subsidies of solar installations by other utility customers (although the amount of electricity generated by residential solar installations is a tiny fraction of the state's supply).

Additional Town Solar

Julia reported that the Town is seeking quotes on a solar installation on the new salt shed at Public Works.

ENH renewal

Yolanda noted that we need to plan for renewal of ENH green energy contracts in the fall.

Town bulk energy purchases

Larry mentioned a program in Holliston, MA where the town purchases energy in bulk for residents and sells it below market residential rates; residents can opt out. We need to determine whether this kind of program is legal in New Hampshire. If it is, we could purchase green energy and allow residents to opt out.

Landscape Working Group

Larry and Lyn Swett Miller met with Julia and the working group met again in January. The focus of the group's efforts will be stormwater retention, pollinator habitat expansion, lawn reduction, and pocket park development. A Website for the landscape initiative will be developed for the Town Website, with a map of existing exemplary sites and notes on creating the various types of sites. (A tour may be arranged at some point.) Explanatory signage will be developed for each site. A volunteer action team will be assembled to help develop both public and private sites (on the model of MetroBlooms in Minneapolis).

Three town sites have been identified for possible sustainable landscape development—the former community center plot on School Street, west of the parking lot by Gilbert's; Dagmar's Place on Valley Road; and the bank by the Howe Library parking lot. Residents will be recruited to offer private residence sites for development. Larry will seek the involvement of the Hanover Garden Club in this initiative. A DES program, Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire, has offered counsel and assistance.

Recycling

Peter reported that he continues to work on developing markets through the Northeast Resource Recovery Association for a town-administered curbside recycling program. Although dual-stream recycling (paper, other materials) provides some income, it is more expensive and logistically complicated to run. A town-administered program would not change the process for residents.

Submitted by Larry Litten