

Lee, NH Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes -APPROVED
May 17, 2016 (First official committee meeting.)
Lee Public Safety Complex

Present: Paul Gasowski, Brian Giles, Leslie Adams, Dean Rubine
Guest: Chuck Cox

I. Call to Order at 1:02 PM.

II. Preliminary Actions

- A. Introductions: Members and guest shared personal profiles/background.
- B. Approval of Agenda- No changes. Approved.
- C. Minutes: Paul G. volunteered to take minutes. Task will rotate each meeting.
- D. Correspondence: None

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Discussion Items

A. Work on Vision/Mission Statements:

Leslie A. shared “Three Spheres of Sustainability” with committee. Chuck C. shared “The Natural Step” concept and book. Leslie A. summarized her draft notes on a ‘vision’ and mission for sustainability in Lee based on Brundtland Report and ‘Three Spheres of Sustainability’. Please see attached. Brian G. summarized his draft notes on a ‘vision’ and mission for sustainability in Lee based on relationships between humans and natural systems. Please see attached. Group commented on the ‘Tragedy of the Commons’. Chuck C. commented on the difference between ‘voters’ and ‘citizens’. Paul G. summarized his draft notes on a ‘vision’ and mission for sustainability in Lee based on relationships between humans and systems on various levels. Please see attached. Dean R. commented that the philosophical and actual relationships between humans and nature have changed markedly over time. The committee further discussed key points of each draft vision. Committee agreed for each member to refine and share ‘vision’ drafts before next meeting. Additional discussion/revision at next meeting.

V. New Business

- A. Committee adopted the name “Lee Sustainability Committee”.
- B.

VII. Public Comments:

None

-more-

VIII. Closing Actions:

- A. Committee agreed to keep early afternoon meeting time for next meeting and to integrate some evening meetings thereafter.
- B. Next Meeting: June 14, 2016 at 1:00PM ...Lee Public Safety Complex
- C. Agenda Planning: Focus on 'vision' and 'mission' for next time.

IX. Adjournment:

Meeting is adjourned at 2:30PM.

Submitted by plg 5/22/16.

ATTACHMENTS:

From Leslie Adams:

According to the United Nations' Commission on Sustainable Development (1987), sustainability refers to *"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* **A sustainable town then, aspires to design its processes to promote vibrant ecological, social and economic health over the long term.**

Citizen education, open space preservation, smart growth initiatives, recycling and waste reduction programs, local food promotion, community building, energy efficiency and green energy promotion, green building programs, affordable housing, and climate change initiatives are just a few of the ways a town can address its sustainable future. The Lee Sustainability Committee hopes to promote this in the following ways:

- by educating community members on sustainability issues and advocating for sustainable living.
- by providing residents with the information and resources necessary to make more sustainable choices in everyday living.
- by advising the town of sustainability concerns within our boundaries, and by providing creative and workable solutions that promote sustainability.
- by becoming a coordinating point/ forum for the community for questions, concerns and discussion related to sustainability.
- by involving residents of all ages in the pursuit of greater sustainability for the town of Lee.

From Brian Giles:

**Town of Lee
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Thoughts on Content of a Mission Statement**

These are random thoughts regarding what might be included in a Mission Statement for the recently authorized Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee. They are listed in no particular order.

- The purpose of government is to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. This includes present and future generations.
- Native Americans of New England say that any decision that effects the people should be guided, not only by the present, but by the collective experience and learned wisdom of the last three generations, and the possible impacts on the next three generations.
- The Town must be guided by the principal that the citizens are the stewards of the land, the water and the air, and as such have a responsibility (1) to meet this obligation and (2) to by pass on these trusts to future generation in better shape than received.
- The citizens of the Town are an integral part of nature's web, and as such, must respect the 7
- The Town is not an island unto itself and must respect the common needs, present and future, of neighboring communities, resident watersheds, and shared location.
- All natural resources should be used in a renewable fashion such that there is no permanent degradation or exhaustion.
- All waste products due to human activity must be disposed of in a manner that facilitates recycling.
- The Town should continually strive to minimize the use of natural resource through greater efficiency and conservation.
- A "Sustainability Ethic" pursued by the Town will lead to an improvement in the quality of living for its citizens.
- All citizens of the community must be guided by the moral imperative of a "Sustainable Ethic" in order to avoid outcomes predicted by The "Tragedy of the Commons."

From Paul Gasowski:

A vision for a sustainable and resilient Lee might consider our Town as a part of a network of interrelated systems (natural resources, human/social resources, economic resources) in balance that mutually support and impact each other. This vision extends well beyond our immediate geography and our notion of time. The Town of Lee's role within this network is to meet its

essential needs, while maintaining the health and integrity of the other systems...the balance. To this end, Lee is sustainable and resilient when large and small decisions (choices) are made with this 'balance' firmly in mind. The image of a sustainable and resilient Lee begins with each person and spirals outward and up to include the home, the neighborhood, the Town, the Seacoast, the state, the Northeast, the nation and the planet.

Meeting Our Needs within Our Region:

- Within Northeast Region (500 miles)
- Within State
- Within Seacoast
- Within Town
 - Traffic Circle and North Lee
 - Town/Village Center
 - South Lee
 - Neighborhoods
 - Home

Individual

