

Minutes Mayor's Commission on Preserve Somersworth 9/5/19

Called to order at 18:02

Members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair; Devon Stanley; Wendy Berkley; Doug Watson; Dale Smith-Kenyon; Mayor Dana Hilliard

Discussed goal of Commission: to lay the groundwork for establishing a ten -year plan for sustainability and conservation in Somersworth. Reviewed prior task forces, including their function, roles within the City. This Commission is to essentially draw up a blueprint/guide document with check list to assist City in making decisions that will impact City in realms of sustainability and conservation. Goals include:

- * Policy booklet as noted above
- * Guide for administrative body
- * Maintain wildlife and habitat
- * Preserve Somersworth for future generations
 - * Governmental responsibilities e.g.: modeling and Legislative
 - * Citizen action's / responsibilities
 - * Schools responsibility
- * Baby steps including suggestions and action items
- * Accessibility/ universal design/ respect
- * Smart growth
- * Merger of "Proud Past and Bright Future"

To start, examine the state of the City:

- * What's going on now, "As it is"
- * What priorities will emerge
- * Various organizations and what they do
- * Current issues being talked about; include both sides of issues when addressing:
 - * New England Cottontails, single use plastics (e.g. straws, bags, display items)

* What is anticipated to be coming up in the future:

- * Climate change, impact on Somersworth, public safety, drinking water resources/ protection
- * Costs/ benefits, doing vs. Not doing; consider environmental, social, economic costs/ benefits
- * Resources to tap into: Master Plan; Vision 2020; other resources

Next meeting tentatively planned for Monday 10/21/19

Meeting adjourned at 19:30