

# MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

January 16, 2020 - 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Crystal Paradis, Doug Watson, Devon Stanley, and Wendy Berkeley and Michael Bobinsky.

Guest: Christopher Asbell

Chairman Scott Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting was considered. Crystal Paradis moved and Devon Stanley seconded the motion to accept the minutes Motion was approved.

### **2. Pollinator Garden**

Chris Asbell came to today's meeting to talk about the Somersworth Middle School Pollinator Garden. A Pollinator Garden is a space with plants that attract Monarch butterflies and bees. SMS has applied for a Pollinator Garden Grant and a \$100,000 Farm to School Grant. At the suggestion of Mayor Dana Hilliard, Asbell wants to expand beyond the middle school. The idea is to use the Malley Farm Community Garden. They also hope someday to expand the program to Somersworth High School.

Scott replied and said that the Sustainability Committee can help with the plots, but that the Conservation Committee also needs to be a part of the decision making.

### **3. Identify Means of Delivering Information to the Public Regarding Household Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal**

In order to improve our communication about hazardous waste disposal we plan to:

- Look into changing the day of the hazardous waste disposal, so that it doesn't coincide with other events.
- Communicate that other places (like Home Depot) accept some sorts of hazardous waste.
- Inform councilors, librarians, etc. as to where they can find this information, so that they can direct the public when asked about it.
- Use email blasts to remind people when the hazardous waste day is.
- Possibly have a speaking engagement to inform the public.

### **5. Pesticides**

Doug Watson did some research and found that Portland, Dover, and Portsmouth all have city ordinances that work towards eliminating synthetic pesticides and promoting organic pesticides. Portsmouth has all switched to some sort of steam machine for killing curbside weeds.

## **6. Action Items**

- Chris Asbell and Devon Stanley are meeting with the Somersworth Middle School Sustainability Committee next week and hope to find a student who will join the City's Sustainability Committee.
- Crystal Volunteered to work on the Sustainability Committee's website.
- Wendy volunteered to contact Peter Lachappelle of Waste Management to present on hazardous waste at the Spirit Up Somersworth Day.
- Doug volunteered to find someone to come in and talk to us about organic pesticides.

## **7. Next Month's Meeting**

- City Hall Heating System
- Our next Speaker Series

Mike Bobinsky moved and Crystal Paradis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Devon Stanley