

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

October 17, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Ed Levasseur, Devon Stanley, Wendy Berkley and Michael Bobinsky.

ABSENT: Doug Watson

Chairman Scott Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1.APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the September 17 2019 meeting was considered. Scott Orzechowski had suggested edits/amendments to the draft set of minutes that addressed corrections and format. Mike Bobinsky moved and Devon Stanley seconded the motion to accept the minutes as edited and amended. Motion was unanimously approved.

2.Correspondence

Wendy highlighted her Farm to School grant application she is completing at this time. The grant application provides for funding to continue the program into 2020 and focuses on community sustainability. The application is due on December 13, 2019. Wendy explained the grant focus for the upcoming year will focus on more community-based projects involving the School and the City of Somersworth. Examples include establishing Sustainability Clubs or programs at each school in the Somersworth School District. The grant will also cover expenses related to school gardens, sustainable implementation planning, and development of an outdoor classroom of sorts at the Malley Farm Trail system.

3. Public Comments

None

4.Unfinished Business

-Items for the November Newsletter

It was suggested that two topics be submitted for the City Managers consideration. The first one is dealing with the recent showing of the film "Paris to Pittsburg" with a note about future events, lectures, presentations sponsored by the Committee. The second is a short summary of the recent experience staff had with using goats to address the invasive Japanese Knotweed growth behind the outfield fence line at Noble Pines Baseball Field.

-Feedback from the "Paris to Pittsburg" Film:

Committee members heard film was interesting Blackbox Theater was a great venue to hold the film, audience should have been allowed to ask more questions on topic, key speakers were good, though the main person from the League of Conservation Voters was not able to attend, his program manager filled in and did a good job. Annie Ropeik, reporter from NHPR was outstanding in framing the complexities of Climate Change topics and how to place information in short sound bites for the media and the public to

understand. Committee members discussed why turn out was low; though discussed how this particular night had several competing events to consider in the future. Scott served as MC and Mayor Hillard arrived after the end of his back to school night at the Somersworth Middle School.

5. New Business

Next up for the climate change speaker series includes instructors from UNH doing research and teaching courses on Climate Change, and a speaker from Revision Energy. Dates and details for this event still need to be finalized.

Next meeting will be on November 14 at 6pm and will be a planning meeting for the next speaker services noted above.

Ed Levasseur moved and Wendy Berkley seconded the motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting ended at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Bobinsky