

## **Minutes of the Sustainability Committee**

**Date:** Thursday, July 21, 2016

**Time:** 6:06 PM

**Chair:** Scott Orzechowski

### **Attendees/Members:**

Mike Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and City Manager Designee

Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning & Community Development

Jennifer Soldati, City Councilor

Doug Watson, Community Member at Large

Angela Ficco, Community Member at Large

Scott Orzechowski, Chair and Conservation Commission member

### **Public:**

Sarah McGraw, Somersworth resident

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
1. Approve the minutes of the May 19th meeting	Brief review of the minutes	Councilor Soldati - motion to approve Doug Watson seconded Minutes unanimously approved.

<p>2. Correspondence: Response from Somersworth Conservation Commission re: tree replanting</p>	<p>The Conservation Commission sent the Sustainability Committee a UNH Cooperative Extension list of native trees. The Conservation Commission asked for more specifics about the proposal. Would the trees need to be planted in the same location? Whose budget would pay for the trees? What about trees removed as hazards?</p> <p>Doug Watson and Councilor Soldati noted that other communities, such as Portsmouth and Atlanta, have such policies, so that Somersworth might be able to model its policy after them.</p> <p>There was discussion among all members about choosing native trees that are drought resistant.</p>	<p>Councilor Soldati took the action item to research the types of trees to recommend. Doug Watson took the action item to research policies in other cities.</p>
<p>3. Unfinished business a. Updates on NH Farm to School b. Updates on energy reduction plan</p>	<p>Doug Watson presented a synopsis of the latest Farm to School meeting.</p> <p>The Sustainability Committee was asked to suggest locations for the mobile market to open in Somersworth. The discussion surrounded accessibility to low income and elderly communities and well-trafficked locations.</p> <p>The community garden is at capacity. There is talk of expanding it, and if so, where to locate it.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to designate "edible" Adopt-a-Spot locations.</p> <p>No updates on the energy reduction plan.</p>	<p>Doug Watson will pass on the Committee's recommendations for either Bartlett Ave., near the early learning center, or Government Plaza. The Committee also suggested (but did not recommend) rotating between the two.</p> <p>Sarah McGraw will take pictures of the community garden and submit them to Brenda Breda for the August newsletter.</p> <p>Mike Bobinsky took the action item to look into a map of open space and parks.</p>
<p>4. New business</p>	<p>Social media was discussed. There is an unmaintained Sustainability Committee Facebook page. There is a "Somersworth What's Happening" Facebook page, where meeting times and notices could be posted. Discussion of Instagram. Scott Orzechowski noted that social media could become difficult to</p>	<p>Due to time constraints, these items were tabled for the next meeting. Sarah McGraw will contact Bob Belmore for guidance on the Facebook page.</p>

	<p>administer unless thought out judiciously.</p> <p>Discussion of Somersworth providing rain barrels and/or compost bins to residents.</p> <p>Discussion of city clean-up day where the city would pick up bulky items from residences.</p>	
5. Announcements	Mike Bobinsky announced the installation of a bike rack on Highland and High, near the Teatotaller.	
6. Miscellaneous	Scott Orzechowski has been working on improvements to the web page, including updating the list of members, ongoing and completed projects, tips of the week or month, addition of the Committee's mission, and useful links. Members requested the addition of photos.	Scott Orzechowski to continue to develop the page and contact Brenda Breda and Bob Belmore.

**Committee adjourned at:** 7:17 PM

Next meeting 8/18/16 at 6:00 PM

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Scott Orzechowski (Chair)