

# MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

April 19, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, Doug Watson, and Michael Bobinsky.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting was considered. Doug Watson Moved and Mike Bobinsky Seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Motion was approved. The Committee did not hold a meeting in March.

### **1. Correspondence /Update**

Scott mentioned the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop off event at the Rochester Turnkey Facility. The Drop off event will be on Saturday May 5 from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the Turnkey Landfill; flyers have been distributed in the schools, at City Hall and the Library; and the event is posted on the website. In addition, Sarah McGraw sent around an e mail for the Committee's information about alternative methods of assessing water rates based on usage factors, and she shared a link for building retrofits linked to the City of Dover's energy cost reports.

### **2. Unfinished Business**

#### **Review of 350 NH offshore wind initiative**

The Committee reviewed the initiative sponsored by 350 New Hampshire to encourage the Governor to establish a statewide task force to study offshore wind opportunities for the State that was discussed at the February Sustainability Committee meeting. Discussion occurred over what the advocacy group was looking for; the outside group is seeking an endorsement from the City Council to encourage the establishment of the Task Force, not to have a position on the pros and cons of the development of offshore wind energy. Councilor Ed Levasseur had indicated that he would have a discussion on the topic with the Mayor and propose a Resolution for the City Council to consider. Following discussion and absent Council Levasseur at the meeting, Mike moved and Doug Watson seconded the motion to ask Council Levasseur to pursue a resolution with the Mayor and Council for only endorsing the establishment of a task force for off shore wind energy. In addition, we discussed having the speaker from 350 New Hampshire return to make a follow-up presentation to the City Council at some point in the future.

#### **2018 Project Planning**

Scott suggested that since not all Committee members were present, that we continue the topic on Committee project planning until the next meeting, where more members can offer input. However Committee members did discuss working on the development of an anti-idling policy for municipal vehicles and to monitor the success of the LED Street Light conversion on energy savings.

Scott also mentioned an Arbor Day flag ceremony with the Mayor and the other committee. It was later determined to hold the Arbor Day Flag ceremony, honoring the City of Somersworth's participation in the Tree City USA program. Flag ceremony and photo opportunity is scheduled for Monday April 30, at 5pm. at City Hall.

#### **City Hall heating system**

Committee members continue to support the further evaluation of the cost benefit of replacing the heating system at City Hall. The Committee does recognize that there are no funds for this replacement at this time, however, encourages City staff to pursue a feasibility study possible with Unitil as part of energy savings initiatives.

#### **3. New Business**

2018 Work Plan, discussion to continue at the next Sustainability Committee meeting

Discussion about having a Facebook account for the Committee, Sarah to discuss further at next meeting.

Discussed current issues in the recycling markets and challenges faced by the City's residential solid waste and recycling hauler over clean recycling materials and enforcement of recycling rules due to market forces.

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

Encouraged the Community to participate in the upcoming HHW Drop off event at Rochester Turnkey. Staff will be sending out eblasts, newsletters and website updates with reminders about this regional event.

Doug Watson mentioned a future topic may be about the single use plastic bags used in grocery stores and the value of recommending a shift toward a ban or fee on use of plastic bags for stores in Somersworth to promote greater use of reusable grocery bags.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Doug seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 7:20pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **May 17, at 6pm** at City Hall Conference Room.

Submitted and prepared by:

Michael J. Bobinsky