

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

OCTOBER 11, 2018- 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Scott Orzechowski, Chair, City Councilor Ed Levasseur, Doug Watson, and Michael Bobinsky. Sarah McGraw was absent from the meeting.

1.APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting was considered. Scott discovered a typo in spelling Bobinsky. Ed Levasseur moved and Doug Watson seconded the motion to accept the minutes as amended of the September 20, 2018 meeting. Motion was approved.

2.Correspondence

No Correspondence was presented.

3.Unfinished Business

-Single Use Plastic Reduction Draft Resolution

Ed Levasseur explained the basis for the Resolution, and the desire to promote methods to reduce single use plastics in plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam cups in local businesses in Somersworth. The draft resolution also provides a mechanism to recognize those local businesses that reduces single use plastics in their daily operations. Ed further advised that he reviewed the draft resolution with City Manager Bob Belmore who made suggested edits. Committee members discussed the proposed Resolution, offered amendments; discussed methods of promoting the program City wide and considered next steps. The draft Resolution was moved by Doug Watson and seconded by Ed Levasseur to accept the draft Resolution as amended and to be reviewed by the City's legal counsel for format prior to being presented to the City Council for consideration. Motion passed.

Discussion on Draft Idle Reduction Policy proposal

Doug presented background materials to support the development of an Idle Reduction Policy for City vehicles /equipment and contractors working for the City. Doug indicated the focus on the policy is to have the City of Somersworth take a role in reducing carbon emissions and one method of doing that is through idling reduction policies for City vehicles. Doug cited examples where he observed City equipment idling without employees operating the equipment, including public works, police and fire equipment. The State has an emission reduction policy for all public sector agencies including municipalities as part of overall goals to reduce emissions in the atmosphere. The School Department adopted an anti idling policy in 2010. Committee discussed the purposes, how enforced, and offered feedback on the development of the draft Policy, highlight the environmental benefits and the potential for cost savings as well. Ed Levasseur suggested that after Sustainability Committee, and City Management has completed its work on the draft policy the City Council's Government Affairs Committee consider it before recommending to the City Council. Doug will consider suggestions made and return with an updated version of the draft policy at the November meeting.

Adding Sustainability Language to all City RFP's.

Doug reviewed the background on this concept which is to promote sustainable practices in all City' request for proposals and request for quotes. While the concept is still being developed, the Committee agreed to meet further with City staff to learn what statements already exists in typical RFP's and processes currently in place to promote sustainable practices with purchasing decisions before doing further work on this item. Scott will initiate a follow-up meeting with Scott Smith and Bob Belmore to learn more. Doug Watson agreed to participate in that meeting as well. Mike agreed to send around examples of recent RFP documents to Committee members to help with this review.

New Business

Planning Review.

This item was to bring Sara McGraw up to speed on the topic; it will be discussed further at the November meeting.

Updates

-Staff will be starting background work on the CMAQ grant project to upgrade traffic signals on the High Street corridor. CMAQ grant award provides funds for the City to replace and upgrade all traffic signal equipment along the corridor to improve traffic flow and synchronize with the City of Dover traffic control system.

-Ed Levasseur advised that an update on the status of the solar array project for Blackwater Road /Superfund Landfill site will be given to the City Council at the November 5, 2018 City Council meeting.

-Scott Orzechowski mentioned that the Conservation Commission is sponsoring a multi-agency effort with Idelhurst Elementary School to develop a Story Trail Project at Malley Farm. Details are being developed at this time.

Ed Levasseur moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.

Submitted and prepared by:

Michael J. Bobinsky