

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

January 17, 2019- 5:30 P.M.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES. Minutes of the November 11, 2018 meeting was considered. Ed Levasseur moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

2 Wendy Berkeley Somersworth School Department, -Update on Farm to School program

Wendy presented an update on the Farm to School (FTS) Program; provide background on when program started, accomplishments to date, links with School Policy's and City goals for sustainable practices. Discussed business and agency partnerships developed, garden sites at schools, educational components, food composting at the middle school, ADA Compliant Garden Boxes among the key milestones achieved. Wendy seeking new round of funding, through grants, donations.

3. Correspondence

No Correspondence was presented.

3. Unfinished Business

-Idle Reduction proposal.

Doug Watson picked up from the November meeting and reviewed research work to date, background from the State of NH on anti-idling regulations, and proposes that the Committee continue to work and support a recommended policy the City should adopt to comply with state guidelines for anti-idling of City equipment. Doug handed out data on policy development that lists specific websites that provide more background on idling issues. Committee members agreed to research specific areas and bring back highlights from each site at next meeting to assist Doug with crafting a draft policy proposal. A sub group of the Committee will take other agency policies and offer framework /format for a proposed policy, and prepare to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

-Adding Sustainability Language to all City RFP's.

Doug and Scott reported they met with the Bob Belmore and Scott Smith to discuss how sustainable practices can be weaved into RFP's or RFB's as part of the review and selection process for bid awards. Scott and Doug mentioned how some RFP/RFB already have language like this and other services, supplies do not. Doug offered a check list to Committee members that prompts a review of what degree a response or bid reflects sustainable practices or goals. The check list will be sent to the City Managers office for information and recommended use.

-Climate Change public forum.

Scott is taking a lead on this effort and is still working on logistics and lining up facilitation from the UNH Cooperative Extension Office for lining up speakers to present on related climate change topics as part of public forum series Scott will be recommending to the Committee to sponsor and to the City Manager office in the near future.

New Business

-Sarah McGraw information on recycling concerns

Sarah discussed concerns about recent discussions the City Council had about the possibility of cutting the residential curbside recycling program from future City budgets due to costs concerns. Sarah and other Committee members discussed the need to provide information to the Council and the public about the continued value of reducing solid waste and to continue to provide a residential recycling program in the City. Committee members began discussing some ways to modify the program to reduce or control costs and to hold a workshop in later February to focus on current program, understand costs, solid waste reduction options, market conditions and future practices to recommend to better control costs. Committee members suggested holding a workshop on this topic in late February; Committee members will work with the Chair on further details for scheduling and preparing this workshop.

Ed Levasseur moved and Doug Watson seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended at 6:50 pm.

Next regular Committee meeting is set for Thursday February 21, 2019 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Submitted and prepared by:

Michael J. Bobinsky