

# MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

August 15, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

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

**1.APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.** Minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting was considered. Ed Levasseur moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded the motion to accept the minutes Motion was approved. Note: Chair Scott Orzechowski reported during the June 20 meeting that Sarah McGraw has resigned from her position on the Sustainability Committee due to work commitments. She plans to continue with her role and appointment on the Conservation Commission.

### **2.Correspondence**

*No Correspondence was presented.*

### **3.Unfinished Business**

#### ***-Update on the Proposed Idling Reduction Policy***

Mike gave a brief report on the status of the proposed Policy. He indicated that he was in the process of completed the additional information requested by the City Manager, including obtaining surrounding communities polices or practices with addressing idling reduction efforts for City fleets. Mike reported that the City's of Concord, Exeter, Manchester and Rochester all have existing policies prohibiting employees from excessive idling except during winter conditions and public safety response vehicles. The Cities of Dover, Portsmouth and Laconia as an example currently do not have policies. Mike indicated that he would be reported this information to the City Manager as part of additional background information requested. Mike is also continuing to work with the City Manager on reviewing the current draft proposal.

#### ***Items for City Newsletter***

Scott indicated that the City Managers office is looking for articles for the September City Manager Newsletter. Committee members discussed possible topics and agreed promoting the September 26 showing of the film, Paris to Pittsburg made the most sense as a key topic of information to send to Brenda for the September Newsletter. Mike offered to prepare a draft short article for Committee members to consider, listing information about the film and dates/schedule for the showing as a start for the Managers newsletter.

#### ***Climate Change Speaker Series.***

Scott advised that the kick off for the Speaker Series on Climate Change topics will be the "Paris to Pittsburg" film to be shown on September 26, by officials from the League of Conservation Voters. Rob Warren is regional representative for the League and along with Seth...of the Regional Climate Action Change Group will be the facilitators for the film, and will participate in offering background and commentary about the importance of the film. The film focuses on, climate change and its impact on

global and US regions. Scott indicated that the Mayor will be asked to serve as MC for the film, introduce the film and the speakers from the League of Conservation Voters. There is a possibility of a follow-up meeting with area Mayors, business associates, health care providers and nutrition experts to serve on a panel for follow-up discussion about Climate Change and its impacts from a local perspective.

Committee members discussed marketing and promotion of the September 26, film event. Committee members were assigned specific efforts to market the film and the showing date. The draft information item for the City Managers newsletter will serve as a template for sending an announcement to the City Managers office to update the website and initiate eblast and school text alerts to parents about the film. Wendy offered to speak with school administrators on issuing a text alert about the September 26 film event, and Councilor Levasseur will contact the City Manager's office to promote the event in the newsletter and to request to update website and send out eblast about this information. Committee members agreed that the announcement should also be placed on Channel 22 and on the Somersworth Now Facebook account. Mike Bobinsky offered to support the communications to the City Managers office as needed on promoting the event. Doug agreed to work with the film organizers from the League of Conservative Voters, on crafting a formal press release and creating a poster for the Committee to arrange to produce to be displayed at area businesses and key public locations.

Committee members agreed to host the special showing of the film at the Somersworth HS CTC Building and use the Black Box Theater for the film showing. Event will be held on Thursday September 26, at the CTC, Black Box Theater with doors opening at 6pm and the film showing beginning at 6:30pm. The public is invited to attend.

### **New Business**

Wendy Berkeley advised that the School District would be applying for a \$100,000 second round Farm to School Grant for FY20 sometime this later fall. Current funding for the program expires in the fall. Wendy indicated her program continues to promote working relationships with area agencies, business and school officials while promoting practical skills for students and teachers about the value of local grown food, community gardens and vegetation has on the Somersworth community at large. Wendy also mentioned that the School District would be hosting an annual "Trash on Lawn" day on September 24 and September 30 which serves as an awareness for students to gain a broader understanding about the impact local trash amounts have on the community.

Scott indicated that Shanna Saunders, Development Manager, may be reaching out to the Committee to help with advising local businesses to refrain from using balloons and large "Wiggly Man" type signs or banners in the promotion or advertising their businesses, due to impacts on the outside environment from animals and birds getting caught in this type of promotional material.

Ed Levasseur moved and Mike Bobinsky seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**Submitted and prepared by:** Michael J. Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and Utilities

