

MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

City of Somersworth-City Hall

February 17, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.

Committee members present: Sarah Childs, Lilac Snowden-Hallowell, Wendy Berkeley, Michael Bobinsky, Doug Watson, City Councilor Matt Gerding

Chair Sarah Childs opened the meeting at 6:06pm. Sarah welcomed Councilor Gerding to his first Sustainability Committee meeting of the year. She indicated the focus of the meeting will be on reviewing and seeking comments on the Sustainability Framework. However before the group got into this topic, she asked for any final comments on the 2022 goals and sample actions. She did let the group know she was planning to share this document with the Mayor.

Doug wanted to make a motion that Sarah should view the draft with others under the condition that she add the following language under Goal 2 (second bullet) "...In addition, inform the public on the implications of using chemical fertilizers....add "proper disposal of household chemicals and reduce carbon emissions." Mike also amended that motion to include a change under the same goal but in the Sample Action: "Promote Hazardous drop off day... change from "1st Saturday" to "3rd Saturday" in May. Doug moved to approve these two changes and Wendy Berkeley seconded the motion. Motion to accept the 2022 Sustainability Goals and Sample Actions document was approved for sharing with others.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Wendy made a motion to accept the minutes so long as her last name was amended from "Berkely" to "Berkeley". Sarah made a revised motion, "in addition to making this change, Sarah's own last name "Eckstein" be changed to "Childs". Mike moved approval of the minutes once amended and Lilac seconded the motion. With the exception of Matt abstaining (since he was absent), motion to accept the meeting minutes under this condition were approved by the group.

2.SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK: The Committee discussed adding language that would further elaborate on how this decision making matrix could be used. Matt Gerding provided specific examples/ scenarios where using a framework such as this one could be helpful as a City Councilor. Matt referenced the time when the city had been making a decision to attract businesses to Somersowrth and had to decide which business would be the right fit for Somersworth. He also mentioned this framework could help the City Manager and City Councilors as they approve funding for a capital improvement projects. Matt made a motion to work with Sarah on revising the language before presenting this framework to anyone outside of this committee. Mike second, all accepted the motion.

3. NEW BUSINESS: Sarah had asked the group if there was a particular topic they wanted to try and target for the upcoming spring. Doug mentioned the idea of doing a film screening related to a climate change topic. Wendy suggested she would reach out to Bill Rogers who may be working on this effort. Matt suggested we try and focus on a different topic each quarter. The group was in agreement of this idea.

GENERAL UPDATES:

Sarah updated the group on how SRPC's Energy Resilience webinar went. Sam Evans, Director of Clean Energy New Hampshire was the special guest for this event and discussed various energy related efforts taking place around the state. Sarah mentioned she would try and distribute the recording since those that couldn't attend were interested in watching it. She mentioned she would like to propose the City of Somersworth sign up to be a subscriber to Clean Energy NH's news updates.

Wendy contacted Mr. Fox to inquire how best the middle school can measure the food composting volume. Mr. Fox advised to weigh the empty compost bin and then weigh it full and calculate the difference to determine the volume.

FOLLOW UP ACTION ITEMS -

- Sarah will work with Matt to revise the existing Framework document
- Sarah will try and get the recording of the energy webinar out to the group
- Wendy will follow-up with Bill Rogers on what he is working on

Sarah Childs moved and Lilac seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm

Submitted and prepared by: Sarah Childs