

January 31, 2017

**Minutes of the December 15, 2016 Sustainability Committee meeting.**

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 6:00pm. Attending the Committee meeting were Scott Orzechowski, Jennifer Soldati, Doug Watson, Sarah McGraw and Michael Bobinsky.

Jennifer Soldati moved, and Sarah McGraw seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting, which included the workshop on the Community Garden program.

Scott opened the meeting indicating that there was no correspondence to be read into the record, and proceeded to take up unfinished business involving the review and consideration of a new Tree Ordinance. The draft Ordinance was reviewed and discussed. The Committee felt the draft Ordinance met their expectation but wanted to include a list of recommended replacement trees and to provide a designation of tree size by species, denoting small, medium and large species. Following further discussion, Doug Watson moved, and Sarah McGraw seconded the motion to recommend approval to of the Tree Ordinance with the aforementioned amendments, to the City Council for action at the earliest possible time. The motion passed unanimously. Subsequent to the action of the Committee, city staff reviewed the final draft Ordinance and added another statement within the Tree Care section, highlighting the need to obtain approvals from the Somersworth Historic District if a tree within the Historic District was to be removed. In addition, the need to consult with the State DES was added if a tree was planned to be removed that was in a designated wetland within the City. The final Draft Version of the Tree Ordinance will be advanced to the City Council and considered through the designated Committee at the earliest possible time.

Note: City staff has filed for the annual 2016 Tree City USA designation in early January, to include expenditures related to tree maintenance and planting as required by the Application. Staff referenced the current Planning Board Landscaped Ordinance as part of the submission, as the proposed Tree Ordinance has not yet been officially approved by the City Council. Once the Tree Ordinance is approved by the City Council, it will be part of the City's annual submission for the Tree City USA application.

**Unfinished Business:**

Scott discussed the concept of making rain barrels and or compost bins available to Somersworth's residents. The Committee discussed how best to make these available to the public, such as take orders and sell at City facilities, refer to a retail store, website or consider using a link to the Soil Conservation Service website to encourage residents to order the rain barrels or compost bins. The Committee will continue to discuss this at their next meeting, but also suggested once a method is

chosen and approved, to use the City's tax bills and/or water bills for promoting the purchase of rain barrels and compost bins.

Other topics the Committee discussed included a brief discussion around the need to promote and participate in designated community clean up events, such as the Day of Caring, and Hazardous Waste Collection days; Scott announced that Angela Ficco has resigned from the Sustainability Committee due to work and other commitments and has appreciated her participation and work with the Committee. She submitted a formal letter to the Mayor announcing her resignation. Scott mentioned knowing of another possible volunteer who may be interested in serving on the Committee and understands that that individual will be required to send a letter of interest to the Mayor if seeking to serve on the Committee.

Next Committee meeting was set for January 17, 2017 at 6pm.

Sarah McGraw moved and Jennifer Soldati seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved.

Minutes taken by Michael Bobinsky

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Orzechowski (Chair)