

Portsmouth Committee on Sustainable Practices

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2007 – 8–10pm

Portsmouth City Hall - City Manager's Conference Room, 4th Floor

Chairman Rooney called the meeting to order at 8:00pm. Committee members present were Ann Walker, Bert Cohen, Skye Maher and Tom Rooney. Tom stated that the 4th Wednesday of the month appears to be a good regular meeting time for the Committee. Going forward, we will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month (next meeting March 28th) from 7:00-9:00 in the City Manager's conference room.

Before getting into the agenda items, Bert suggested that the Committee consider instituting a rotating facilitator for our meetings. This would involve a different Committee member setting the agenda and running the meeting each month. Similarly, the minutes would be taken on a rotating basis. Committee members present liked the idea and we will bring it up for a vote at our next meeting.

A brief description of the discussion concerning the specific agenda items is included below:

- I. Update on Emissions Inventory Intern – *four resumes have been received from UNH students, a few candidates will be interviewed over the next week or so.*

- II. Update on Sustainability Study Circles – *There will be an introductory meeting concerning the 3rd round of the Sustainability Study Circles on March 8th from 7-9pm in the Portsmouth Library. An organization named the Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative has been formed to administer the study circles. This group is very motivated and includes members from Portsmouth and surrounding communities in NH and ME. Bert and Skye are very excited about the energy and momentum that this new group brings to the study circles.*

III. Update on Energy Audits of School Buildings – *Ann Walker reported that Ken Lynche, Buildings Director, has been taking the Building Operator Certification course with Alan Mulak and that he is taking initiative within the school buildings to make operations more energy efficient. To date, lighting has been upgraded in many schools, including the high school, and energy conservation is discussed regularly at school committee meetings.*

There are currently no plans to have an outside contractor hired to complete energy audits of school buildings.

IV. Approach Tie-in with other groups – *These groups were briefly discussed. The consensus was that we remain aware of related groups and consider coordinating with them as opportunities arise.*

- a. Buy Local Campaign
- b. St. John's Stewardship Committee
- c. NH Businesses for Social Responsibility
- d. UNH's New Hampshire Carbon Challenge
- e. Clean Air – Cool Planet

V. Discussion of Gary's Ideas – Committee

a. Committee's actions concerning Middle School – *After much discussion, Bert suggested that the Committee draft a letter, addressed to both the School Board and the City Council that recommended that the four system conditions as included in the Natural Step framework be considered as the basis for determining the most suitable location for the new Middle School. Ann noted that there is a Work Session for the School Board on March 22nd and a City Council Work Session on March 28th. In order to submit the proposed letter for consideration at these meetings, we would like to mail it out by March 15th. Bert and Skye are working on a first draft that will be sent around to the Committee for review by next Friday March 9th. Committee members will weigh in on the whether the letter is appropriate and if so, reply to the group with comments/suggestions so that we can have a second draft for Committee review by Tuesday, March 13th.*

b. Competitive procurement of electricity and gas for City – *tabled until next meeting.*

- c. Aggregation of Portsmouth residents for bulk purchase of electricity
– *tabled until next meeting.*
- d. Grass roots Climate Change Awareness campaign – *tabled until
next meeting.*

VI. Wrap up and Adjourn – *Chairman Rooney called the meeting to a close
at 9:45.*