

Portsmouth Committee on Sustainable Practices

Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2007 – 7–9pm

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Committee members present were Ann Walker, Bert Cohen, Gary Epler, Sandi Hennequin and Tom Rooney. Also in attendance to learn about competitive procurement of electricity were City of Portsmouth staff including John Bohenko - City Manager, Cindy Hayden – Deputy City Manager, Dave Allen – Department of Public Works, and Judy Belanger – Finance Department.

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

- I. Presentation on Competitive Procurement of Electricity and Gas
Michael Morin, Constellation New Energy, gave the Committee a presentation on Competitive Energy Choice in PSNH service territory. The presentation gave a good overview of the logistics of purchasing competitive electricity for PSNH customers. City staff were interested and will investigate this opportunity further.

- II. Discussion of Competitive Procurement - Tie-in with green power and renewable energy
Mr. Morin also provided information concerning the purchase of green power. Green power is available and is always more expensive than traditional electricity. However, it was discussed that the City could potentially purchase a percentage of green power (i.e., 25%) and coupled with the savings from purchasing competitive power, still pay less than they were under PSNH's rates. City staff and the Committee also discussed the potential for the City to purchase a wind generator or a solar array at the DPW site on Peverly Road.

- III. Update on Committee's actions concerning Middle School
No news on the Committee's input to the Middle School as Councilor Reynolds was not in attendance.

IV. Follow-up Discussion on NH Carbon Challenge Presentation

- a. Interest in a Portsmouth Challenge? – *Committee is very interested in offering the Challenge in Portsmouth and will stay in contact with the Carbon Challenge staff to learn about their current pilots and then potentially roll something out later this year.*

V. Brief Summary of Step-it-Up Campaign Event

Gary Epler gave a brief overview of the successful event.

VI. Update on Emissions Inventory Intern

An intern has been hired and will start in June.

VII. Discussion of Rotating Facilitator for Committee Meeting

The Committee decided to try the rotating facilitator approach for the next few meetings. Bert Cohen will facilitate the May meeting.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn – *The meeting was called to a close at 9:00.*