

Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative (PSI) “Steering Committee” Meeting Minutes pg. 1

Date: May 23, 2007 Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: City Hall	Present: Bert Cohen, Tom Rooney, Ann Walker, Skye Maher and Ned Raynolds on speakerphone Facilitator: Bert Cohen Recorder: Skye Maher	Next Meeting: June 27, 2007 Facilitator: Skye Maher Recorder: Gary Eppler

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Decision	Key Person
1. Opening			
2. Check in	Brief check-in to reconnect with each other		All
3. Old Business:	<p>Competitive Procurement discussed at last meeting. We will ask as a committee, where the city is with the concept of competitive procurement. Specifically, we would like to know if any proposals have been requested, what movement has occurred to date and is there any furtherance of the idea of a renewable energy plant at the DPW site?</p> <p>Ned requested that the city official bring back a proposal to this committee so that we might make a presentation to the City Council.</p>	We will ask Cindy Hayden for an update.	Bert? Ned
4. Update on Middle School Conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We discussed the letter we drafted regarding the use of the Natural Step for decision making which has been put on hold. • The Portsmouth Listens Study Circles are currently in their 3rd week and their presentation to the joint meeting of the City Council and the School Board is on June 18th. • Discussion about how we can help the school board use the Natural Step in the decision making process. Bert will meet with Ann and hopefully, other school board members to review the Natural Step process, on May 30. • Suggestion that Ann broadcast the invitation to all board members so that any who can/may join in the conversation. 		Bert Bert Tom Rooney
5. Intern Update	The summer intern begins on May 25 th . He will be working on the inventory requirements for the ICLES project, focusing on the city’s buildings. ICLES uses an aggregate figure for their use, but to	Tom will report back on the possibility of	Tom Rooney

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	accumulate that information, each building must be examined. We would like to have bench marks for each building made at the same time as the data is collected. The benchmarking will permit us to rank and evaluate each building separately relative to all other buildings of its age and type (Energy Star assessment).	collecting benchmarks this summer.	
6. Fall Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portsmouth Listens and Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative are sponsoring a fall launch of another round of study circles based upon the Natural Step. It will begin with a “kick-off” meeting and have follow-up activities after the course. • We discussed the possibility that Mayor Marchand could sign a proclamation saying that the City has already begun to use the Natural Step, to be presented at the “Kick-off” meeting. 	Set dates for opening meeting. Ask Mayor Marchand for availability and interest.	Bert
7. Public Works/Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In spite of our robust recycling system, our outdoor events do not have enough recycling efforts. • The look and feel of the containers has much to do with whether people will use them. Ned proposed a system he has seen and he will send a proposal to all of us. 	Ned will research the recycling bins and send info to committee	Ned
8. Review of Committee Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of sustainability • Advise the City operations on sustainability • Advise the City Council on sustainability issues 		
9. Meeting process	We discussed the format of the rotating facilitator and recorder. It seems to be a comfortable way of sharing responsibility.		All
10. Evaluation	Speaker phone proved to be a useful tool for engaging members unable to attend. Also, having an open agenda so that things may be added at meeting time met with our approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.	Continue with this model	All