

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Committee members present were Bert Cohen, Gary Epler, Sandi Hennequin, Skye Maher, Ned Raynolds, Ann Walker. Peter Britts and James Ryan of City Staff were present. Gary Epler facilitated the meeting and Sandi Hennequin recorded minutes.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Decision	Key Person
1. Opening	7:10 PM		
2. Check in	Brief Check In		All
3. Old Business	<p>Update on Middle School – no update on the idea of School Board using the Natural Step in the decision-making process. Last meeting had discussed a draft letter from the Committee to School Board</p> <p>Wind turbine at Department of Public Works – Ned brought up issue of whether a smaller scale facility might be appropriate. Asked Peter to provide feedback on the analysis that had been done that led to conclusion that wind could not work.</p>	<p>Tom and Ned to draft a letter</p> <p>Peter to research questions</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Ned Raynolds</p>
4. Update on City-Wide Inventory project	<p>James Ryan, city intern, gave summary of his progress in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. Efforts this year focused on Milestone 1, a baseline emissions inventory using 2006 as the base year. Next step in ICLEI process is Milestone 2, setting targets. James is working on a detailed report with output and assumptions documenting his work. Ned asked for some comparative information of Portsmouth to a few other cities.</p> <p>Discussed how the Committee could have input into Milestone 2 – establishing a target and how to measure the target for the city and for government. Also the question of how the City Council would weigh in. Decided that the report, and this question, should be the core focus of the Sustainability's Committee next meeting.</p>	<p>Discuss at next meeting.</p> <p>Ask Cindy Hayden to come.</p>	All

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5. Update on September 29 Study Circles	<p>Bert provided update on the Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative (PSI) and Portsmouth Listens launch of another set of study circles on September 29th at the Portsmouth Public Library.</p> <p>Discussed the concept of Portsmouth becoming an “eco-municipality” and there was general support to move forward with this. Bert will send out the resolution used by Washburn, WA to Committee members and ask the City Manager to provide feedback to the Committee at the next meeting.</p>	Bert will circulate Washburn resolution to Committee.	Bert Cohen
6. Discussion of Committee's Advisory Role	Bert led a discussion of what role the Sustainability Committee would play. Discussed if the Committee should function as a clearinghouse for information about sustainability-friendly community groups. Committee discussed that this might be outside the scope of our group.		Bert Cohen
7. New Business	<p>Skye brought up the issue of how municipalities could add incentives to zoning and other boards.</p> <p>Gary Epler provided an update on Public Utility Commission matters.</p>		
8. Wrap-Up	<p>Sandi Hennequin will facilitate on September 30, 2007 and Ned Raynolds (tentatively) will record.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.</p>		All