

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 21, 2008 - 7-9pm
City Manager's Conference Room, 4th Floor
Portsmouth City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Committee members present were Bert Cohen, Gary Epler, Tom Rooney, Ann Walker, Skye Maher. Mayor Tom Ferrini, City Manager John Bohenko, and Sustainability Coordinator Peter Britz from City Staff were also present. Bert Cohen facilitated the meeting and Gary Epler recorded minutes.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Decision	Key Person
1. Old Business	None discussed		
2. Green Building Report	Green Building Ordinance Study prepared by Rockingham Planning Commission. Highlights – importance of enacting green building ordinance early. City is looking at putting this into site review regulations. Payback is 1-2 years. Discussion that going through certification is additional expense – desire to meet standards but is certification process necessary. Revolving fund approach.		
3 Combined Heat & Power	Visit by Peter and Ned to Epping City Hall where CHP retrofit occurred. Unit provides heat and power – best application where large heat load exists. Option for city school and city buildings.		
4 Study Circle Update	Meetings have been happening every Wednesday night. April 19 Sustainability Fair to be held at Middle School and Library - 9:00a - 4:00p. Letter will go to Council for approval.	Committee votes to support fair as part of its educational mandate	
5. Roundtable with Jeanne Shaheen	Representatives from six towns and Carbon Coalition, give and take discussion on what can be done locally, on state level and federally. Mayor reminded Committee to make available accomplishments of Portsmouth on the website to allow others to share in our results.		

6. Mayor's Comments	Zoning rewrite – another opportunity to get it done “right”		
7. Site review regulations and Zoning Ordinance	Rewrite – Peter will provide Committee of dates		
8. Goals & Priorities: ICLEI, Carbon Challenge	Action plan – setting targets and measures. 1% per year as target carbon reduction. Need an achievable target – recommendation of Committee to bring to Council. Carbon Challenge – how to engage with them. Eco Teams – group based effort to address conservation issues. City wide neighborhood groups – to undertake competition. Every month there is a citywide neighborhood meeting. Home energy audit checklists – make them available through links on the city website.	Peter will send out next City-wide Neighborhood meeting so Committee can meet with them and promote Eco team challenge.	
Vision – Mission	What is function of this Committee – to act as catalyst/educator/source of ideas for activities/connector/	Skye will edit language of Bert's draft	
Evaluation	Ned – shared pictures of Basil, Switzerland bike parking facilities		