

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES

September 23, 2010 MEETING

DATE: September 23, 2010
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
PLACE: CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE

Drew Martin, Ann Walker, Bert Cohen, Skye Maher and Peter Britz

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM August 26, 2010

III. NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 28 AND THE NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON THE 18TH TO AVOID MEETING ON THANKSGIVING EVENING.

1. **Possible presentation of Social Capital and Sustainability – Shannon Rogers, doctoral candidate at Unh, is looking at what the points are in a community that add to the social capital of a community. Shannon would like to present her findings to this committee next month. She will have 20 minutes to present to us.**
2. **Follow-up Discussion of Committee's Near Term Priorities**
 - a. **Initiative within city and school department leadership to Sustainability**
 - b. **Further ideas on activities to raise awareness?**
 - c. **Purchasing standards for the City?**
Item not addressed at this meeting; put on agenda for October meeting.
3. **Update on Five Year Sustainability Planning Process:**

To encourage greater community feeling and understanding and to rejuvenate energy in the work groups, we will begin to have planning/work meetings every other Wednesday at the High School from 7-9 pm, similar to the way that the Sustainability Fair is organized.

High school group is planning on moving forward with a rain garden. It appears that the grant money will be available, the biggest issue is how to keep the kids involved in the project. Bert: we need a professional teacher to oversee the project to engage the kids in the science of the project, checking soils, elevations, etc.

Peter: the funding for the project will have to be specifically designated as educational money.

4. **Update on Farmer's Market:** *The farmers are taking care of the cans (taking in and out). Volunteers are removing the compost from the site and taking it to the compost collector. We will need to review the process in the fall after the markets close for the summer season.*
5. **Schedule an update from Silke Psula on waste concerns.**
We would like a review of the single stream effort; is there anything we need to do to support that effort? Also, we would like to discuss with her the possibility of making Zero Waste Events a city policy.
6. **Recycling Bins:**
Drew provided an update: the first bin has been sold! Others are in process. The selling of the bins and the educational activity related to those bins is managed by one-on-one conversations.
7. **Conservation commission:** *propose a ban on fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides in the city limits. Skye will meet with Peter Britz to develop a proposal from the Committee and to hopefully gain an understanding of what is possible and who might support it.*
8. **Direction: Where are we headed this year?** *In August we decided to focus on the school department. Is this the appropriate direction for us this year given how full the school agendas are already? Where else can we direct energy to help change occur?*
9. **Next Meeting Homework:** *Each Committee member will bring an idea for an initiative to promote.*
10. **Next Meeting Homework:** *One of the agenda items will be as a group to consider what policy recommendations we will make this year to the city council or other important power brokers.*

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm