

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

December 17, 2015 MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2015
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
PLACE: CITY MANAGER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

- I. **Attendees: Josh Denton, Bert Cohen, Drew Stadterman, Jacob Levenson, Peter Britz, Larry Lariviere, Madison Morris, Rachel Mooers, Jordan Garrett, Wes Tater, Patrick Ellis**

- II. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

- III. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. C-Pace

Wes summarized the presentation made by Laur Richardson from the Jordan Institute about the C-Pace that the enabling legislation had been passed and he would like the committee to support passage of C-Pace in Portsmouth. Wes said he would start by getting a couple of companies interested in moving forward with the program so that we could have some local support for the initiative first.

2. City Water Efficiency Efforts:

The City Council voted to not expand the irrigation meters to commercial users and has not changed the policy of allowing irrigation meters for residential users.

3. School Board Sustainability Policy: The School Board’s Sustainability policy has been adopted and Patrick is going to forward this to members of the committee for discussion at a future meeting.

4. Committee vision and mission:

The committee went around and each member provided input on their view of the vision for the committee in response to Bert's questions of what value is the committee adding. Josh expressed his interest in this committee providing concrete proposals to the City Council such as C-Pace, Plastic Bag Ban etc. Patrick said he sees the committee as a place to add sustainability ideas to ideas initiated by the Council. Wes saw the committee's role as keeping the integrity of the City's commitment to the Natural Step in the forefront. Jordan was there to see how the committee works and to engage from student perspective. Rachel was there to better understand sustainability and bring the perspective of the High School. Madison believes the students bring the youth perspective and in particular the eco-club perspective while always keeping the ultimate target of a "sustainability community" in mind. Larry said part of the committee's mission should be education about sustainability and sustainable practices. Peter and Jacob said they would continue to work on making city operations more sustainable and see the committee as playing an active role in advancing more community actions. Drew thought the committee should continue to research sustainability concepts and ways to assist city council advancing sustainability and Bert and the committee supported sharing some of this vision conversation with the Mayor when he attended a meeting.

5. Climate Change Paris Conference

There was discussion about the Paris climate conference and how 195 nations have made commitments to control climate. Bert thought it was important that this committee support the commitments made in Paris and wanted to discuss with the Mayor what specific actions the City could take to support CO₂ reductions. Bert thought the committee could come up with some specific recommendations to discuss with the Mayor. Bert asked members to add their thoughts about the climate accords. Josh supports the accord and measures, Wes would like to see the City come up with some specific measures, Jordan suggested a mock climate change conference as they attended in Boston and they are hosting at PHS. Rachel and Madison support the accords, Larry said he would share a website which summarizes the conference, I mentioned our continued efforts to track GHG emissions and Jacob's effort to calculate the GHG reductions from recycling/solid waste route/staff realignments and his efforts which will go towards better tracking of city building efficiency, Drew said It would be good to bring the big picture from the conference to the City Council.

6. Policy Direction from New Mayor

As discussed above the Committee would work on sharing its vision and past efforts with the Mayor in hopes of getting his support for the committee to continue and a sense of his vision for the committee. The next meeting January 28th will take place a little early starting at 5pm where the committee will plan our meeting and invite the Mayor to attend the February meeting which will take place on March 3rd at 6pm. Peter will bring the slide show the committee presented to the council and slide show that Bert and Peter have presented that gives sustainability background, with the goal of getting a few slides together to show the mayor. Patrick mentioned that Councilor Lown has a great deal of support for sustainability. Patrick thought it would be good to highlight some of the topics the committee has supported that have been implemented. Patrick will facilitate the March 3rd meeting.

7. Meeting dates for 2016

(All meetings will take place from 6-8pm in the City Manager's Conference Room, in City Hall unless otherwise noted)

January 28th (5-6:15pm)¹

March 3

April 21

May 26

June 23

July 28

August 25

September 22

October 27

November 17

December 22

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

¹ This meeting will start and end early to accommodate attendance to an affordable housing presentation.
<http://www.3sarts.org/performances/ps21-a-smart-growth-approach-to-affordable-housing>

