

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE, CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Location:** City Hall, Conference Room A

### **Attendance**

**Committee Members:** Torey Brooks, Josh Denton, Maxson Ward, Fred Calcinari, Colleen Spear, Chas Sullivan, Bert Cohen, Bill Lyons, Effie Malley, Rhianne Tallarico, Jessica Blasko (Virtual)

**City Staff:** Kate Homet (Planning and Sustainability), Kristin Shaw (Health), Nancy Clayburgh (School Board)

**Guests:** Anka Vidacic, Tyler Garzo, Emily Dutton

**Absent:** Leigh Hudson

**Facilitator:** Bill Lyons

**Notes:** Rhianne Tallarico

### **Agenda**

- I. **SolSmart**
- II. **Minutes**
- III. **NH CAP (New Hampshire Climate Action Plan)**
- IV. **Rules and Procedures**
- V. **Note Taking**
- VI. **Election of Officers**
- VII. **Community Engagement**
- VIII. **2025 Agenda**
- IX. **Portsmouth Boards, Commissions and Committees**

  

- I. **SolSmart Update**
  - SolSmart is a national organization that helps cities, towns and regional organizations become solar energy leaders. Portsmouth is currently a bronze member. SolSmart has provided feedback on Portsmouth's zoning ordinances regarding solar energy.
- II. **Minutes**
  - Minor updates were made to November 2024 minutes. Motion was made to accept the updated November 2024 and December 2024 minutes.
    - Motion accepted
- III. **NH CAP (New Hampshire Climate Action Plan)**

- There are 5 sectoral working groups (aligning with the EPA sectors) that are supporting the development of the NH CAP. This Committee's participation would be welcomed.
- Kurt Yuengling, the NH Department of Environmental Services' Community Engagement Specialist and NH CAP Team Lead, is open to meeting with this Committee to discuss the NH CAP (for ~30 mins in person or ~5-10 mins virtually).
  - Potential benefits include:
    - Insight to the state's thinking
    - Alignment of the Portsmouth CAP with the NH CAP
    - Preparation for 'Implementation of the CAP' Community Conversation
  - Potential invitees include: City Councilors, Planning Board, Energy Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Trees & Public Greenery
    - The Committee should consider instead providing a readout to these stakeholders to ensure productive conversation in the allotted time.
  - Motion was made to invite Kurt to present at the February meeting and prepare accordingly.
    - Motion accepted
    - Actions: Bill to invite Kurt to the February Committee meeting. If Kurt accepts invitation, Josh to work with City Clerk to invite City Councilors, Kate or Peter to invite City Staff with an RSVP-by date to identify space constraints, and Committee to prepare for discussion by self-educating on the NH CAP (Bill – Transportation, Torey – Buildings and Energy, Jess – Industrial Waste and Materials).

#### **IV. Rules and Procedures**

- Motion was made to finalize the draft of the Article IV Section 1.414 ordinance amendment for its proposal to the City Council.
  - Motion accepted
  - Action: Josh to propose ordinance amendment to the City Council.
- Outstanding edits to the Sustainability Committee's Rules and Procedures were identified.
  - Action: Effie to perform in-depth review of the Rules and Procedures, including rationale for each rule or procedure, for Committee review in February.

#### **V. Note Taking**

- AI (Artificial Intelligence) note taking poses security concerns and supports processes that emit greenhouse gas emissions.
- A note taking template that has proven successful in the past was shared. Should this template be used, it should be updated to include absentees and excused absentees.

- The Committee should consider outsourcing this task (note taking).

## **VI. Election of Officers**

- Motion was made to nominate Effie Malley as Chair of the Sustainability Committee.
  - Motion accepted
- Motion was made to nominate Jessica Blasko as Chair of the Sustainability Committee.
  - Motion accepted

## **VII. Community Engagement**

- Upcoming Community Conversations:
  - Sustainable Gardening and Food, April 2, 2025
  - Implementation of the Climate Action Plan, May 6, 2025
- The Sustainability Fair will be held April 11, 2025 at the Connie Bean Center.

## **VIII. 2025 Agenda**

- The Committee reviewed and refined the 2025 facilitator and note taking assignments.

## **IX. Portsmouth Boards, Commissions and Committees**

- The Energy Advisory Committee is seeking 1 regular member.
- The Municipal Building Committee was recently classified as a Blue-Ribbon Committee. Motion was made for Torey to present to the Municipal Building Committee if given the opportunity.
  - Motion accepted

### **Next Meeting**

**Date:** February 27, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** City Hall, Conference Room A

**Facilitator:** Torey Brooks

**Notes:** Jessica Blasko