

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

June 22, 2017 MEETING

DATE: June 22, 2017  
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
PLACE: CITY MANAGER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

**AGENDA**

**I.**

In Attendance: Peter Britz, Patrick Ellis, Larry Lariviere, Matt Glynn, Tracey Cameron, Lindsay Kenny, Bert Cohen. Non-Member: Wes Tator

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM May 25, 2017**

*There was no objection to acceptance of the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.*

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Meeting Times**

Acknowledgment that new 6:30 time works better.

**2. Mayor’s Pledge to Paris Climate Agreement**

Mayors around the country are supporting the Paris Climate Agreement. 400+ mayors supporting the Agreement despite President Trump indicating that the US will withdraw. Mayor Blaylock has stated that Portsmouth will stay with the climate accords.

So how will we meet the goals of the Accord? Looking to set a date by which all of Portsmouth/Pease are using 100% net neutral for energy. 27 Cities are already there (i.e. Burlington, VT). Mayor to make formal appointments to Blue Ribbon Committee to evaluate what the City can do. Make up will be 2 councilors, 2 staff, 1 from PDA (or company from Pease), 1 from School Board, 1 from Planning Board, 2 residents in the City who are experts.

Meetings will be structured around an expert making a presentation, followed by discussion.

We suggested reading up on the Rocky Mountain institute who is working on similar efforts.

Peter indicated that Cambridge has some commercial building rules that would be good to look at.

### **3. Composting Pilot Program**

Looks like a full city pilot is in the works. Plan is to subsidize Mr. Fox. \$20,000 per year to subsidize the whole city, so they will double the amount of funds looking to double the amount of food waste diversion. That money can also be used to obtain an Earth Eater compost machine from DPW at no cost.

Lindsay spoke with Pedal People in Northampton (<https://www.pedalpeople.coop/>) . Growing for 8 years. 15 bikes. Opportunity in Portsmouth for multiple vendors to provide the service. Peter suggested they could drop off at transfer station (so Mr. Fox would be involved either way) as there is not a facility that can accept meat.

Bert suggested that part of the Pilot Program be education.

It was discussed that part of the biannual presentation to the City Council include the potential for the educational sided of this composting program.

Discussion around the composting rules in NH. Some thought towards pushing to loosen the rules to allow meat composting similar to Maine, and Massachusetts.

### **4. Committee Status**

Mayor needs to sign off on Lindsay's official status.

Current Membership (and dates of who is facilitator

1. Bert (8/24)

2. Jacob
3. Josh
4. Larry
5. Lindsay
6. Matt
7. Patrick (7/27)
8. Peter
9. Tracey (6/22)

## **5. Committee Vision and Priorities**

Discussion on the evolution on the committee. Noted depth of knowledge in the committee, and ability to actually support specific policy.

## **6. Renewable Energy Policy Committee**

Discussed during the round table on the Mayor's letter regarding the Paris Climate Accords.

## **7. Sustainability Alliance Summit**

Meeting on June 23rd to help facilitate some additional handprint parties. In the Library there will be an ongoing Thursday night sustainability discussion group. 2 hours long. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month, 6:30-8:30.

Permaculture association has participated. One is on the committee on using public space for food. John Forti is being pulled in for discussion on a Portsmouth seed bank.

## **8. Carbon Fee Initiative**

Wes came to ask the Committee to support the establishment of a Carbon Fee and Dividend at the Federal level. This would be a step towards bringing this issue back to the City Council. Paris Accord sets targets on temperature change (max change of 3.6 degrees F.). There is now a Republican proposal (backed via Mobil, Pepsico, et al).

Republican plan still has the "Tax" (as they refer to it) that is still to be returned to the Citizenry.

Bi-Partisan climate caucus to try to bring the bill to the floor.

Josh will bring this back to the City Council's attention by including it in an upcoming City Council meeting agenda (with enclosures in packet). Likely in September (presented at first meeting as draft, voted on in second meeting).

Bert made a motion for the committee to endorse Carbon Fee and Dividend. Motion passed unanimously. Josh to now take to the Council.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**