

City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices

January 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Jacob Levenson, Patrick Ellis, Bert Cohen, Tracey Cameron, Wes Tator, Larry Lariviere, Josh Denton

1. Call to Order
2. Acceptance of Minutes from December 22, 2016

Minutes are missing from July, August, and November. It was agreed that minutes will be sent to all for review, accepted at the following meeting, and then submitted to the City Clerk.

3. New Business:

- a. Plastic Shopping Bag Ban Update: Josh led a conversation on the status of the enabling legislation at the state house and the City Council requesting the ordinance itself be brought forward for a First Reading at the next meeting.
- b. Schiller Station: The committee discussed the resolution that was brought to the City Council from concerned residents regarding the pending auction of the Schiller Station, whether biomass is clean energy, and what we would ideally like seen done with the property. Patrick Ellis made clear to all that his company was involved with the biomass operation at Schiller Station.
- c. Affordable Housing at Parrott Ave: Josh asked for the committee's thoughts on the proposed affordable housing project being located on a flood plain and asked everyone to review the recent City Council presentation and letter submitted to the City Council by resident Tom Morgan. After much discussion, it was decided that the Sustainability Committee would support the project at the current location if it is done correctly so it can serve as an example of what builders should do when contending with climate change.
- d. Divest UNH: Josh led a conversation about the efforts of Jordan, a former committee member turned UNH student, and other UNH students on trying to get UNH to divest of their Carbon based investments. Their efforts have been stymied, but now that winter break is over Josh is facilitating a meeting between the UNH students and their State Senator, Martha Fuller Clark.
- e. Portsmouth Sustainability Alliance: Bert gave us an update on the Alliance's series of meetings at the Levenson Room every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. The next meeting on February 9 will be on Soak Up the Rain NH.
- f. Portsmouth High Eco Club: Bert asked whether or not the committee should support Portsmouth High School's Eco Club's efforts to create a branding program for local businesses that support sustainable food waste practices. It was determined that the committee would support the effort by Bert contacting Kim and Patrick bringing it up at the next School Board meeting.

