

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

May 25, 2017 MEETING

DATE: May 25, 2017  
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
PLACE: CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS: LARRY LAREVIERE, JACOB LEVENSON, BERT COHEN,  
PETER BRITZ, PATRICK ELLIS, TRACEY CAMERON

NON-MEMBER PARTICIPANT: LINDSAY GALLANT

## **Minutes**

- 1. Meeting start time: Larry motioned to move start time to 6:30 to 8. Josh seconded. Bert would like to keep meeting to 2 hours. Bert likes the option to be able to explore issues more deeply as time allows. Proposed 6:30-8:30 new time. If there are outside presenters we should perhaps limit to one per meeting. Move meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 – agreed upon.**
- 2. Hodgson Brook: This past Tuesday the city did a walk at the site – a greenway between Rt 1 Bypass and Bartlett St. where the feeder brook to North Mill Pond. Planning dept. mentioned sidewalk from hospital to route 1 Bypass. 11 acres are for sale by brook. Larry wants there to be an agreement that the buyer will improve the area. Would like to daylight the brook and make a greenway. Fish cannot get over the Route 1 Bypass. Wildlife is in the area and should be protected and enhanced. The city should get involved**

proactively. City owns 100 feet buffer along brook-permit would be required to build. Good turnout. Five city councilors attended. Several members of the conservation commission as well as the press-expect a piece in the paper on Sunday. Patrick noted that he saw a hydro-seeding truck drawing water from Hodgson Brook. Developer from Lawrence is interested in the property. If he gets the bid he would like to work with the committee to make this a sustainable project. Bert felt there was good social capital built.

**3. City of Portsmouth Reusable Energy Goal**

There will be a work session a week from Saturday. Josh sent around a Sierra Club 10 case studies. 29 cities have a goal of 100% clean energy (Hanover joined) by 2030 and 2050 heating and transportation. May need a separate committee-process is unsure but would be a possible goal for the next work session. Define if the goal is for the municipality or city wide (including residents). Other communities are setting net-zero goals which is a different process. We would want to tailor something to Portsmouth. The CIP for the methane digester could tie in to a goal of 100% renewable or net-zero. What is our unique opportunity to create a mix of what is going to get us to the vision? Between the two solar arrays and LEDs saved a MW each year already. Josh suggests a diverse committee with local experts at the Mayor's discretion. What is the ASK? Jacob suggests this would include the entire community...and beyond? New England Sustainability Network is another good resource. Cambridge has a good model—use the website infographic.

**4. Energize 360:** The project has hit tier 3 and thinks they will hit tier 5. 24 audits...12 solar systems estimated 106KW of solar have been signed up. Net metering credits may go away—there may be an opportunity for the city to voice support with the state for continuing net metering.

**5. Curbside composting:** Josh—City composts at transfer station. This would be curbside. Estimates for contractor ~\$460,000. City purchase of program (staff and equip) would be about \$900,000. Josh suggested a pilot program. City manager proposed alternate idea of an agreement with

**Mr. Fox with a subsidy to encourage more people to sign up. City offers earth eaters. Budget vote is a week from Monday. Diverted food waste also saves tipping fees. Jacob gave an update of state food waste. Some places have a hauler that takes yard waste and food waste combined. Hugelkultur compost system suggested by Lindsay. Pedal people is a program that people on bikes pick up compost. Food waste collection is holding the industry back.**

- 6. Article on Low Tech (NYT article) we need to look at low tech reinforces what we are doing.**
- 7. Committee status: Lindsay lives in Kittery-would like to be involved. Peter will check to see if Lindsay could be involved as a non-resident-will be added to mailing distribution.**
- 8. Vision and Priorities: Many items, and vision is merging, starting to look at systems perspective.**
- 9. Sustainability Alliance Summit: Five handprint parties planned, three occurred. There will be a summit this Thursday by invitation. This will be workshop format for local organizations. The format is engaging people. The summit should generate next steps/ideas. 6:30-8:30 June 8<sup>th</sup> Levinson Room.**

**Next Meeting: June 22**

**Facilitator: Tracey**

**Note taker: Patrick**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:00**