

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

September 28, 2017 MEETING

DATE: September 28, 2017  
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
PLACE: CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

In attendance are: Bert Cohen; Jacob Levenson; Josh Denton; Larry Lariviere; Peter Britz; Tracey Cameron; Lydia Fedoorouich; Lucy Travine; and five UNH students

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM August 24, 2017**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Committee Status:** Lindsay Kenney is now an official member. Bert and Josh spoke to the importance of becoming active on committees.
- 2. Toxins:** Josh spoke to the City Council's recent motion to eliminate synthetic toxins in the FY19 budget and then Peter spoke how on October 23 at the Library the Conservation Law Foundation's Piscataqua Great Bay Waterkeeper will talk to how to use less synthetic pesticides. Larry spoke about pesticide water runoff.
- 3. Handprint Party Update:** Bert and Lydia spoke about ecological footprints and handprints. Next party is on October 12 where

Seacoast Local will discuss how sustainability can work with the local economy. Everyone said what the concept meant to them.

- 4. PHS Members Introduction:** Two PHS juniors attended. They will be the representatives for the school year. 35 – 60 students. The two students, Lydia Fedoorouich and Lucy Travine, said they would be good to run and take minutes at meetings.
- 5. Committee Vision and Priorities:** Committee has been around for 10 – 11 years. Spoke about each of our visions for the next year or two. October 5 is National Energy Efficiency Day and Portsmouth will participate. The Mayor had asked for a regular report when he first met with Bert and that at the next meeting it should be discussed.
- 6. Portsmouth Listens Housing Dialogue:** Bert spoke about Portsmouth Listens in general and specifically on the kickoff for the Housing Dialog will be on October 5. Bert talked about the benefit for dialogue.
- 7. Facilitation Schedules:** November 30 and December 21 will be the respective meeting dates. Josh will facilitate in November and Larry in October.
- 8. University of New Hampshire:** UNH students introduced themselves and said what their majors are. Bert talked about important collaboration is.
- 9. Water Efficiency:** Jacob talked about Portsmouth Housing Authority swapping out 450 toilets saving 20% water which equated to \$40,000. Jacob also spoke to LED streetlight program reducing half a megawatt of energy and has a 2.5 years return on investment.
- 10. Recycling Education:** Larry spoke about how the Portsmouth Housing Authority does not recycle. Lydia and Lucy said the PHS are going to be doing a 2 minute video on recycling and composting for high school students.
- 11. Curbside Composting Pilot update:** Josh said that Mr. Fox informed him that their Portsmouth customer base increased by 25% since the pilot began. Jacob also spoke to the DPW transfer station drop off and the free Earth Eaters.
- 12. Renewable Energy Committee update:** Josh gave an update on the Committee and Peter talked about the Mayor signing onto the Paris Climate Accords and how the policy will help get there.

**13. Evaluation:** Excitement of turnout, toxins in waterwaters, and ongoing efforts. Jacob offered to help with the PHS recycling video and put it on the City of Portsmouth website.

Note for this meeting: Jacob facilitates, Josh is note taker

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**