

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES
July 25, 2019

Date: July 25, 2019

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Place: Conference room A, City Hall

Attending: Bert Cohen (facilitator), Peter Britz, Jacob Levenson, Matt Glynn, Lucy Trevino, Tracey Cameron

Minutes

- I. Call to Order
- II. Greenhouse gas inventory: Peter reported that the intern is working on a GHG report (metric tonnes of CO₂) pending data from the utility company which has taken longer than anticipated. The report will compare use for 2018 v. 2012 and include commercial, municipal and residential use. Jacob presented some graphs for municipal GHG usage. Notable was a significant decrease at the Dondero school. The change to LED lights for street and traffic lights showed a decrease particular for street lights. Jacob noted that the benefits from the program are economic, environmental and social.
- III. Carbon fee & dividend: Mayor Blalock signed the letter supporting the carbon fee and dividend for the second year in a row which will be forwarded to state representatives. This is timely as new bills have just been introduced for taxing carbon.
- IV. Single use plastics: Josh is trying to make this a more general bill which has been stimulating conversation on the issue – a positive factor in bringing about social change. Josh will be able to provide updates at future meetings.
- V. Low income community solar: Tracey is connecting with Craig Welch from Portsmouth Housing Authority to discuss consideration for solar at projects under review and to consider if the recent bill signed by Governor Sununu NH SB165 could be used to expand solar in Portsmouth.

- VI. Caring for the Future---Is the House on Fire? Bert has recommended three books for the Portsmouth Library to use that will help educate the community about the urgency of addressing the climate issue: Drawdown by Paul Hawken; Falter by Bill McKibben; one TBD. Bert is also connecting with other libraries for similar programs. Bert is reminding people to think about “12” as that is the number of years we have to act before the impacts of climate change are irreversible. This outreach would aim to create greater understanding and reach a wider variety of people than are currently engaged on the issue. Lucy and [] are working on a presentation which could be used for the city council and the library book group. (others?) There was a discussion of ways to impress the city council with the urgency of the issue so that climate could be given greater consideration when city work is prioritized.
- VII. Next meeting: August 22nd. Matt-record, Tracey-facilitate
- VIII. Meeting adjourned

Minutes taken by Tracey Cameron