

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE

PRACTICES

September 26, 2019 MEETING

DATE: September 26, 2019  
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
PLACE: **CONFERENCE ROOM A**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL**

**Minutes**

- I. CALL TO ORDER :** Bert Cohen, Larry Lareviere facilitating, Josh Denton, Matt Glynn, Tracey Cameron, John Kennedy, Brady Baum, Peter Britz, Carrie Mayo taking minutes with Matty Belin as a guest.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM August 22, 2019**

Could not approve last meetings minutes - Matt sent them during meeting

- II. OPENING QUESTION** How has the announcement of the UN report on 11 years impact you?

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**Green House Gas Emission Inventory** Griffin Brown is done with his fellowship. It was a challenging project with municipal side can be tallied fairly easily but community emissions were challenging info from Eversource & Unitil provided information late. Peter will present more information during next meeting.

**Single Use Bags / Etc**

- Josh Denton
  - 6 years ago Josh started w/ committee
  - Original request has changed due to veto threat & state wide ban which caused Josh to scale back to City events only.
  - New Version
    - Chamber & Eco Club was super supportive
    - Overwhelming support on the bans & ordinance
  - Next meeting will vote on city wide ban {October 7}
  - Efforts have been a long time coming
  - Mayor suggested that the youth played an impact

## **Committee Updates**

### **Divestment**

- John: PowerPoint presentation
  - Presented background information on NHRS
  - Belief is more corporation taking a harder stance
  - Current top 10 investments companies John felt as though 3 stood out
    - 1- Amazon: resulted in employees would walk out and commit to producing zero carbon emissions
    - 2- Exxon - By and by they are a dirty company
    - 3- The Linde Group: world leading supplier of industrial process and speciality gases {the trends in water use are actually going up} {their emissions are also going up... trending the wrong way}
  - Presented Case Study on University of California
- Open Question: How do we use Portsmouth's contribution to NHRS and our Eco-Municipality position to impact change?
  - Tracey suggest that this IS a good lever. Feels as though this does "move" things.
  - Bert suggest that we should look at leverage points and suggest a letter would raise the question in terms of time and to raise awareness. This is a good point because most people may be unaware of where/how their money is being invested.
    - Rapid change
    - Collective will
    - The right thing to do
- Josh suggest we approach this with a resolution.
  - Suggest that this committee support the resolution.

## **Presentation to the City Council / Climate Strike**

Committee has discussed presenting to the City Council. Ideas discussed with concept that some type of action be considered to attempt to move people towards sustainable action in the community.

### **Library Non Fiction Book Club**

- Bert is leading a book group at Portsmouth Public Library
- 3 books
  - Falter
  - Ecology, Ethics, and Interdependence
  - Drawdown
- Collective shift from the head to the heart shifted from the youth stand and participation because there is NO alternative.
- October 15 book club starts
  - Falter is first book
- Bert will send poster to committee
- Bert has a goal to get 12-30 people there.

### **Community Outreach on Energy Efficiency**

- Tracey would like to save this topic for the next meeting.

### **Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign**

- Matty Presented - Visiting
  - National Collation supported by National non-profit organizations to stop Oil Drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- 2 goals
  - Educating Community
  - Then Elevate the community to use presidential campaign to build support
- It is believed that this will be GAME OVER for the environment if we start drilling there
- Short Term goals Is to delay-delay-delay progress & elevating the issue for presidential candidates to make this a part of their campaigns. BIG public Awareness campaign
- Blue Ribbon Committee could be a coalition Partner & Matty is suggesting that we notify the public
- Bert inquired about signing the letter- Committee was polled to gauge support - Unanimous support. Peter suggests that the Board could potentially sign & support as well.
- Matty's salary is funded through crowd funding in regards to the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign. Matty stated that this information is publicly available and she was not 100% on the breakdown. Matty to provide website to to provide additional information.
- Matty's contact information Portsmouth Field Organizer, Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign [maddy@greencorps.org](mailto:maddy@greencorps.org)

### **IV. Adjournment 8:30pm**