

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

DECEMBER 17, 2009 MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 17TH, 2009
TIME: 7:00-9:00PM
PLACE: CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE

Skye Maher, Bert Cohen, Adrienne Harrison, Gary Epler, Karina Quintans, Tom Rooney, Peter Britz, Brenna Morris

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Minutes accepted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Zero Waste

a. Neighborhood Association Presentation

Karina Quintans and Adrienne from the Islington Creek Neighborhood Association discussed in study circles ways to reduce waste in Portsmouth. The community members who gathered at this study circle want to research policies and programs and advocate for the ones that make sense for the community. Pay as you throw, curbside composting, single-stream recycling, as well as a waste-to-energy contract at the key components. They currently have a letter of support for a zero waste program including single stream recycling, a waste-to-energy plant contract, and a citywide curbside composting program that has been submitted to Portsmouth city manager with over 30 signatures.

The BRC and Neighborhood Association agreed that a pay-as-you-throw program needs more research and thought before sending a letter in to the city council. The Neighborhood Association is currently interviewing cities with pay as you throw programs. They have a 15 questions survey with questions such as, the kinds of ways they are having community pay for trash (pay for stickers, pay for bags), as well as the amount of trash reduced as a result of pay-as-you-throw.

The Union Leader had an article about pay as you throw on Dec. 14th, about Daniel Maurar with NHDES. He goes from town to town talking about switching to what the state believes to be a more efficient system, reporter Beth Hall.

Communities sometimes provide a number of stickers to community members to put on their trash bags. If the community members used up their stickers, they would have to pay for extra. Overall there are a variety of programs to choose between that have been successful in many other communities.

Seacoast Grower's Association Presentation

Skye will meet with them and report back to the Committee.

2. Gundalow RainBarrel Project

Skye will address this at a future meeting.

3. Meeting schedule for 2010-4th Thursday

The 4th Thursday is still good.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Zoning Review Process Update

Update on fertilizer business later.

2. Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Proposal

The State of NH has \$6.5 million to distribute, maximum of \$400,000 per municipality. Proposals must focus on energy efficiency and/or renewable energy. Bert suggested a proposal to request \$400,000 for low-income residents for a weatherization program. Ideas the city discussed were applying to retrofit a municipal building. The conclusion on this was that the city is currently in a good position to send a proposal for retrofitting a municipal building; it needs to be done quickly.

3. Update on November 21st Sustainability Event

Skye and Bert are scheduling a time to talk to the city council to discuss progress.

4. Zero Waste and Pay-as-You-Throw Policy Recommendation Status

Gary is making a presentation for pay-as-you-throw and Skye is working with zero waste.

V. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Property Assess Clean Energy (PACE) – A million dollar fund for a property assess clean energy program. Financing home solar systems or improvements onto the homeowner's property tax bill. Skye is going to look into this.

Feed-In Tariffs (FIT) – About renewable energy, guarantees anyone who creates clean energy can sell energy back to the grid and receive long term payments for each kilowatt-hour produced. Complex, rules, need to look further into it.