

## APPROVED

### Sustainable Hanover Committee Meeting, February 15, 2023

Attending - Members: Stowe Bean, Rob Houseman, Susan Edwards, Dennis Robison, Barbara Callaway, Marcus Welker, Judi Colla, Chris Kennedy, Catherine Rieke. Guests: Sarah Kelly, Judy Reeve, Lynn Sheldon, Norm Bernaiche, Director of Assessing.

Stowe Bean chaired the meeting.

- 1. Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2023:** The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. If there are any additions or changes, please send them to Dennis Robison. If there are none, they will be considered approved and posted by February 20, 2023.
- 2. Announcements:** Stowe Bean introduced Catherine Rieke, the newest member of the Sustainable Hanover Committee.
- 3. Solar Exemption:** New Hampshire has clarified what the Town of Hanover can do so far as the taxable value of solar installations are on real property. Overall, if solar installations are to be assessed, they would be exempted. There is an application for exemption available from the Town Clerk's office which is due April 15. Publicity regarding the process will be forthcoming from the Director of Assessing's office. Norm Bernaiche indicated letters have been sent out. This has been an issue pursued by Sustainable Hanover for some time to encourage the installation of solar on residential property.
- 4. School Warrant:** Yolanda Baumgartner and Judi Colla have met with the school boards (Hanover and Dresden) encouraging them to support the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The result of their efforts will be an opportunity for citizens to vote to support warrant articles for this to be done. There was discussion about whether or not an SHC member could advocate for these warrants or would they have to do it as a private citizen. Robert Houseman, after some deliberation, determined either approach would be acceptable. There is also great interest and support among the Hanover High School student environmental group.
- 5. WindowDressers Build & R.W. Black Recreational and Senior Center:** The Center is seeking ways to reach out to the Sustainable Hanover Committee. One opportunity is hosting a Fall WindowDressers build. Linda Grey (Norwich) and Dennis Robison will meet with representatives from the Center.
- 6. Styrofoam Recycling:** Dennis Robison reported for Yolanda Baumgartner that Sustainable Hanover's first styrofoam recycling event took place as planned on Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am to Noon. 141 residents from the area donated 29 super sacks (two truckloads) of material which were taken to a center in Gilford NH. Many thanks to volunteers from Hanover Rotary and other members of the community. Judi Colla reported that the traffic patterns were somewhat confusing. The next recycling event will be April 1, 2023 in Lebanon.
- 7. Progress report on Hanover Community Power (HCP) PR Committee:** Judi Colla noted:
  - The Sustainable Hanover Energy Initiative Committee met on February 14, 2023. Some members also serve as the Hanover Energy Aggregation Committee (HEAC). They convened and voted to launch Hanover Community Power (HCP) providing that one power option of rates is less than those currently offered by the electric utilities. This is an important vote in meeting the requirements of the HCP.

- The Sustainable Hanover website has been fully updated with information concerning Hanover Community Power including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Any information about HCP should be consistent with the information on the website. Ways of getting information made public were discussed.

## 8. Updates:

- Recycling: Lynn Sheldon indicated that the textile recycling event was being held up due to a memorandum of understanding agreement regarding liability issues between Apparel Impact and the Town of Hanover. It should take place a couple of months from now. Sites are still being determined. There also needs to be a more precise definition of what is to be recycled. Donations of usable clothing are being sought by Listen as well as Apparel Impact. SHC should not be setting up competition between the two. Marcus Welker raised concern over unnecessary duplication of recycle sites when much of it can be done at the Solid Waste & Recycling Center in Lebanon. Catherine Rieke raised a concern about walking to glass recycling sites because of traffic conditions. These concerns will be raised with Peter Kulbacki.
- Landscaping: Judy Reeve reported she continues to work on drafts for the SHC website. She is seeking photographs of the State Street Park. She plans on joining the Committee's communication group. There will be a grand opening of the Park this summer. The status of the sun dial ordered to honor Julia Griffin is also under investigation.
- Communications: Yolanda Baumgartner, Stowe Bean and Judi Colla met with Town Manager Alex Torpey to review the draft of the Town's new website.
- Master Plan: Chris Kennedy – Progress continues. The Master Plan Committee has gone through at least nine chapters and reviewed the strategies. Once these are completed, they will move on to graphics and other items. There has been a great deal of lively and helpful discussion. Once it is completed, it will be much more engaging and easier to read. He reminded everyone that this is a community wide plan which includes more than just the Town of Hanover. It is to be completed by July 1, 2023.
- Community Climate Connections (3cs) – Barbara Callaway indicated that there would be four **WHOKNEWS** regarding the Hanover Community Power launch and implementation. She had also submitted an article in the Sustainable Hanover *Newsletter* on the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Dartmouth Sustainability Marcus Welker – the Sustainability Department is progressing on its strategic planning report. Seven working groups have been formed. The energy and climate related groups have advanced further than the others but progress in being made on all fronts. The results will be helpful to both the current and the new administration in determining the options and directions for the future. The report should be released by late September or early October of this year.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion about the inadequacies of single source recycling and changes in Casella Waste System's approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary