

Sustainable Hanover Committee
Meeting March 19, 2025 Minutes

Attending: SH Members: Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Susan Edwards, Marcus Welker, Gail Gentes, Catherine Rieke, Christopher Kennedy, Joanna Whitcome, Jennie Chamberlin, Dennis Robison, Judy Reeve, Peter Kulbacki (Hanover Public Works); SH-Energy Members: Rob Taylor, Robin Kaiser. Visitors and volunteers: Judy Payne, Martha McDaniel, Ro Wyman, Jeff Hamilton.

1. **Minutes** from the February 19, 2025 meeting will be reviewed and approved at the April 16, 2025 meeting.
2. **Town Manager Update:** In the absence of Rob Houseman, Peter Kulbacki reported that Josie Banwell has been appointed Sustainability Coordinator effective May 4, 2025. She comes from Pinellas County, Florida, where she has been the sustainability project director for the County. Yolanda Baumgartner also reported that this is the time to prepare reports about the Sustainable Hanover Committee for the Town Annual Report.
3. **Team Updates:**
 - Energy: Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire – Peter Kulbacki – CEO Brian Callnan has resigned. Henry Herndon is interim CEO and a search is underway. Energy market issues have been influenced by a larger need than anticipated causing several rate adjustments. There continues to be problems with the demands by the utilities and the Public Utility Commission that have a negative impact on users. CPCNH and others are working with legislators to address this problem.
 - Earth Week Activities:
 - Sustainable Hanover will cosponsor with the Hanover Garden Club an event at the Nugget April 22, 6:30pm-8:30pm featuring Doug Tallamy (<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>), who is an advocate of the Home Grown National Park movement. There will be a video and panel discussion.
 - Upper Valley Open House in cooperation with the Lebanon Energy Committee - an opportunity to visit homes (6 in Hanover and Etna) that have adopted energy saving strategies. April 26-27, 10:00am - 2:00pm.
 - Earth Week Fair at the Richmond Middle School, April 26, 3:00pm-5:00pm; tables will be set up with an emphasis on practical steps that can be taken to reduce energy use as well as opportunities for professionals offering services. A list is being developed and volunteers recruited to staff the tables.

Newsletter: The recent Winter issue was well received. The deadline for the Spring issue will be May 9, 2025. Ideas and suggestions for content are welcome.

Student Projects:

- Ongoing Projects: Chris Kennedy reported that the LEAP Geothermal project has identified two locations with 5 residents in each group that have agreed to work with students to gather data and explore the viability of a shared geothermal system to meet their energy needs. Their next meeting will be March 31st.
- Resilience Project in cooperation with Dartmouth Professor Wesley Marrero and ENG 177 students. This is a new version of a project that had been submitted but

not accepted for an Earth Science course. The intent is to ask the students to identify resilience issues faced by residents rather than just the Town of Hanover and to help prioritize how these issues might be addressed. This class is focused on uncertainty and policy making in the face of uncertainty. This is one of the courses Dartmouth has identified as having a social impact. It will probably begin in the Spring term and may very well be a continuing effort for future sessions.

Transportation: The school district has been awarded \$600,000 for e-buses but there is concern that this funding might be frozen by current actions of the Federal Administration. It was noted that Hanover's Selectboard had adopted a resolution addressed to the Federal Government to fund awarded grant funding to municipalities. This was sent to the New Hampshire's Congressional delegation as well as to NH state officials.

4. Other Business

- The Environmental Club at Hanover High School will be presenting a session at the Montshire Museum of Science on their updated climate plan for the school on May 22. This plan was presented at a recent meeting of the School Board and has the support of the Superintendent. The Club is planning to have tables set up at the school to solicit ideas from the public about projects to further its goals.
- Chris Kennedy announced that tomorrow evening Marcus Welker will be making a presentation about Dartmouth College's geothermal project at the Salt Hill Pub monthly BS & Beer meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary