

**Sustainable Hanover Committee
Meeting, April 19, 2023**

Attending - Members: Stowe Beam, Yolanda Baumgartner, Nancy Serrell, Lynn Sheldon, Dennis Robison, Marcus Welker, Catherine Rieke; Town Staff: Robert Houseman; also attending: Judy Reeve, Ann Carper.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 15, 2023 were approved with corrections.

2. Announcements:

- Advance Transit's E-Buses are now in service. Yolanda Baumgartner had attended an open house. She thought this might make a good article for the Spring *Newsletter*. Two students from Dartmouth's Energy Justice Clinic are willing to write the article.
- Dartmouth College: Marcus Welker noted that there will be a town hall discussion about progress on energy and sustainability on April 25 at 5:00 pm in Murdough Hall's Stoneman Classroom (Tuck); During the week of May 8 the Dartmouth Sustainability Office is hosting an event with the Energy Justice Clinic about community choice energy aggregation.

3. Town meeting and Warrant Articles: Robert Houseman

ARTICLE TWO, Amendment No. 1 to amend the Hanover Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Hanover Planning Board: intent is to streamline Dartmouth College's ability to expand student housing on campus.

ARTICLE THREE, Amendment No. 2: intent is to allow extra signage for Hopkins Center for both street fronts and to allow for a changeable electronic marquee.

ARTICLE FOUR, Amendment No. 3: intent is to clarify how the building mass is designed for high density to make it more attractive. This is related to the approval for higher density development on W. Wheelock.

ARTICLE FIVE, Amendment 4: intent is to encourage the development of accessory dwelling units, multi-family and Planned Residential Developments by modifying parking requirements.

ARTICLE SIX, Amendment 5,: intent is make definitions consistent with NH Case Law and close loopholes to allow for mix use developments to include apartments above first floor of downtown businesses.

ARTICLE SEVEN, Amendment 6: intent is remove limitations of three unrelated persons in a single residence when applicable to sprinklered multifamily units, making it consistent with the State fire safety code (NFPA 101)

Houseman suggested that these amendments will help in changing the conversation to designating high density developments to locations where water and sewer and transit services are already available rather than "why in my neighborhood?"

ARTICLE FIFTEEN relates to the transfer of a five acre plot of land on Greensboro Road to Twin Pines Housing Trust. This land has been designated for "workforce housing" development. Once approved, Twin Pines will interact with the community and the Town regarding density and development in compliance with planning and zoning regulations.

A question was raised regarding the Selectboard action on solar energy tax exemption. Houseman indicated Article Thirteen memorializes the Board's action.

4. Master Plan Goals and Strategies Review:

Prior to the meeting, Yolanda had assigned different chapters of the Master Plan to SHC members for a review for the purpose of familiarizing members with the content, to provide input and identify areas where SHC might engage.

Addressing Climate Change (Chapter 8) Marcus Welker and Yolanda Baumgartner

Yolanda Baumgartner reviewed the structure of the document which begins with specific goals, then lists strategies to meet the goals, followed by performance indicators. Five goals were listed. Marcus Welker raised issues that came from the information such as definitions of terms (“towns vs. municipalities”). Further he thought some of the goals were unrealistic and might better be phrased in terms indicating “trying to do it,” rather than “do it.” It would also be helpful to have cross references from one chapter to another. Welker was also highly skeptical of collecting data relating to waste management given the way waste is currently being collected.

Fostering Inclusive Economic Resiliency: Lynn Sheldon and Dennis Robison

The approach by Lynn Sheldon and Dennis Robison was to highlight potential connections for action between the Master Plan and SHC. Goal 4-1 *Hanover will be a place where business owners will want to locate and where their businesses will thrive* had a number of strategies which needed to be monitored such as streetscape and landscape development which might benefit from SHC’s School Street sustainable landscape project. Energy focused strategies align with the goals of Hanover Community Power (HCP) and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). Strategies for Goal 4-9 *Hanover will achieve a circular, low carbon economy, focusing on material selection, source reduction, and material reuse, with recycling as a last resort* are all areas of interest to SHC’s recycling and reuse efforts.

5. Updates:

- CPCNH roll out is going well. However, Etna did not receive mailings because Liberty Utilities did not include it in its Hanover listing. Names and addresses of net metering users have been released by Liberty to CPCNH.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Hanover Committee will be May 17. The remaining chapters of the Master Plan will be on the agenda - Chapter 3 Housing (Marjorie Rogalski, Chris Kennedy), Chapter 6 Transportation (Stowe Beam, Barbara Callaway), Chapter 9 Health and Social Justice (Judi Colla, Nancy Serrell).

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary