

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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2010 MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Facilitator, Bert Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Bert Cohen, Gary Epler, Tom Rooney, Peter Britz, Ann Walker, Councilor Esther Kennedy, Councilor Jerry Hejtmanek

ABSENT: Brett Pasinella, Skye Maher

GUESTS: Kim McNamara, Portsmouth Health Services Department
Rodney Rowland, Strawberry Banke

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM January 28, 2009

Minutes accepted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Letter of Support for Islington Creek Neighborhood Association's Downtown Recycling Effort

Councilor Kennedy led discussion of this topic. Committee will support the ICNA's effort and Gary Epler will develop a draft letter for review.

2. Discuss Zero Waste Policy in relations to Farmer's market and City events

Skye Maher has been discussing the zero waste idea with the Seacoast Grower's Association and they are open to the concept. The Committee discussed how a draft document that clearly described the requirements of being "zero waste" is necessary. A similar document was developed for the Sustainability Fair and will be used as a template.

Kim McNamara noted that her office permits the food vendors for the Farmer's Market and that zero waste requirements could potentially be tied into the health permit process. This may be something to consider for next year (2011) as the zero waste policy is more developed and experience is gained from the Farmer's Market in 2010.

Education at the Farmer's Market about what it means to be zero waste was noted to be an important component of the initiative.

Seacoast Grower's Association has a meeting at Stratham Town Hall at 6:30pm on March 19th and will vote on the zero waste policy as an amendment to their lease. Skye Maher will attend on behalf of the Committee.

3. Rain Barrel Program

The City purchased approximately 1,000 rain barrels to sell to residents at a reduced cost. This initiative may kick-off at the Sustainability Fair.

4. Revisit ICLEI Action Plan and Develop Next Steps

Committee discussed that it is necessary to weave the ICLEI Action Plan work into the ongoing Five Year Plan process. Peter Britz noted that an updated GHG inventory is necessary and that he will look into hiring an intern to support his effort. It was noted that Clean Air-Cool Planet may be a good resource for this effort.

5. Status of Committee Minutes and Agendas for 2009 & 2010

Peter Britz noted that he believes we are up to date.

6. Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) Workshop on March 23rd in Northampton, MA

Skye Maher may attend this workshop.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Five Year Sustainability Planning Process

Bert Cohen gave an overview of the process and noted that the initial four week study circle sessions are now ending and a meeting is scheduled for March 18th from 7-9pm in the PHS Library to review the findings of the eight Subgroups.

2. Update on Policy Recommendations to City Council

Pay-As-You-Throw – The Committee will request that Silke Psula update the Committee on the impact of single stream recycling on City recycling rates, if single stream is adopted. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Zero Waste Policy – The Farmer's Market will be used as a Pilot for requiring zero waste public events. The Committee will go back to the Council with lessons learned in the Fall of 2010.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Next meeting will be held on March 25th from 7-9pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.