

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chetana Parmar.

Members Present: Beverly Tappan, Christopher Zigmont, Chetana Parmar, Jennifer Brackett-Piskovitz, Kristen Osterwood, Nina Braun, Robin Tyner, and Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative

Staff Present: Dave Sharples, Town Planner and Russ Dean, Town Manager

Philips Exeter Academy Student Representative: Liuxi Sun

1. Meeting minutes approval

-Meeting minutes from October 1st: Bev Tappan made motion to Approve, 2nd by Chris Zigmont, all approved

2. Presentation on Exeter & Tree City USA by Jennifer Martel and Ilene Flockhart

- Representing the Exeter tree group; Facebook group: Exeter Tree City, USA
- Public tree inventory was completed by a town intern in summer of 2017 for insurance purposes. Findings included: there are a significant number of Maple species and when planting new trees we should aim for more diversity; many midsize trees, but few old growth and new trees indicating lots of tree planting happened 30-50 years ago; and the trees have an annual value of \$145,000 to the town. The survey needs to be maintained.

- Exeter is applying to become a Tree City town - as part of Tree City USA, an Arbor Day Foundation project, that includes 3,400 cities. Benefits include good community engagement, economic benefits, property values, neighborhood ties, honor community, community pride, helpful for grate applications, and stormwater management.

- Discussion: how often does the inventory need to be updated (~5 years); impact of trees on water quality (improves, reduces runoff); any negative blow back from joining (none that aware of); Riverwoods has a unique arboretum; need to manage Exeter forests to remove old dead trees to prevent fire hazard. This is just the beginning, there is a bigger picture that Tree City USA is part of.

3. Public Comment

- Sally Ward on Park Street: What a great thing the Tree Team is doing. General comment: about the Sustainability Coordinator position and the SAC. She is a little frustrated about the length of the movement about what was voted on in March. "If we don't do this soon, then we will be losing an opportunity". Let's not slow down

the process. What we need to do as a community to make it happen. She is concerned about pushing it a year down the road and another year.

- Russ Dean went to ICM (City Manager's Conference) and learned a lot about what other towns effort were and provided a report from that to each member of the committee.

- Paul Royal on Pumpkin Circle: Frustrated. Learned about the sustainability committee. He is frustrated by the lack of meeting minutes. He couldn't find everything he wanted to find about the sustainability committee. Says you need to get everyone on board, does think we are trying to all the right things, but a little alarmed. What he is looking for a more concrete affirmation of what the sustainability coordinator will be leading.

4. Discussion on BRC decision not include Sustainability Coordinate position in budget

- Much discussion about what that means and next steps.
- The grant assumed there there would be a Sustainability Coordinator to help execute grant - not 100% sure if will still be awarded grant.
- Niko spoke to the fact that 3 other positions were also voted to not be included in the budget by the BRC. And that social media needs to administered by town employee.
- Jennifer would like to get get Cory's questions concerning the job description.
- Trying to determine how to update town website. Lucy would like to put a piece about the SAC in PEA school newspaper.

5. Update: Sustainability Fair Subcommittee

- Film festival potentially on 24-26 of January or first weekend in March
- Two venues in addition to Town Hall
- Determined that the film festival will be Friday night and all day Saturday - motion by Bev, 2nd by Kristen.

6. Other Updates

- Update on Parks and Rec from Bev (attached at end of minutes)
- Composting interest at the schools
- UNH sustainability fellowships- Dave is submitting a couple of proposals
- Paying for Climate Adaptation and Resilience: NH Flood Hazards Handbook
December 4th, 2019 8:30-3:30 at Hugh Gregg Coast Conservation Center in Greenland NH.
August 29th at 5 pm at Me and Ollies, a Climate Change Event to include statewide environmental issues and the potential of forming an Exeter Area Climate Change Book Club.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 with main motions and seconds.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood