

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chetana Parmar.

Members Present: Christopher Zigmont, Nina Braun, Chetana Parmar, Kristen Osterwood, Robin Tyner, and Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative

Staff Present: Dave Sharples, Town Planner

Public Comments

- **Corey Stevens Exeter Resident and member of Budget Recommendation Committee (not here representing that Committee)**
 - Discuss vote: saddened by SAC response to the BRC vote and resentment. As relates to 2020 Budget. Yes BRC had all the information, but that wasn't a large part of the decision of BRC. More related to the 4.5% budget increase, a lot of items that could not be changed.
 - Robin, Chris and Kristen discussed/provided comment
- **Approval of November 5th and November 18 Meeting minutes**
- **Mr. Fox Composting Presentation (Sarah)**
 - Sarah works with residential side and education with schools
 - Believe compost matters and future is dependent on communities make small changes.
 - Food waste is largest percentage of waste that is landfilled (22%) and yard trimmings are 7.8%
 - Collect food waste from residents, businesses, restaurants, bakeries, schools, churches, events
 - Residential service: can sign up online, a bin is delivered to doorstep. Exeter is current serviced every other week
 - Commercial: contact Mr. Fox, discuss personalized need, collected every week
 - Home composting vs. Mr. Fox: can take a large volume and take meat and bones, piles are around 130 degrees year round

- Compostable products (i.e. forks, plates, cups) only decompose in an industrial compost facility
- Do a lot of education of what goes in the compost stream (not plastics)
- What is done with compost: the volume reduces by 1/2, all residential get 1 bag of compost and the schools get 1 yard of compost
- Sarah Dewitt, Exeter Resident. Approved to start composting for 2nd grade at Main Street School and all of Lincoln Street starting in February. Principal visiting other schools that compost and took notes. And Exeter Middle School has started composting
- Comments questions: Chris, Nina, Robin
- Do not accept yard waste
- Links to website: <https://mrfoxcomposting.com/>
- **Discussion of composting at transfer station:** (Jen's related comment is at the end of the minutes) Mr. Kelly approached the Select Board about setting up composting at town transfer station. This will be discussed at Select Board meeting December 16.
 - Niko response: there is no contract, there is an MO for a 1 year trial. Mr. Kelly could increase the hours of operation of the Transfer Station. Mr. Kelly can do yard waste and maybe food waste.
 - SAC would like to be involved in the conversations, this case it happened very quickly and Select Board was approached directly. Dave will pull together packet and send to committee
- **Clean Energy Forum** - Bev's report is attached at the end of the minutes. Discussion
- **Update for Rockingham Planning Grant:** Example Gap analysis by SEA and NOAA. Grant should be in place by late January- able to work on Gap analysis
- **Public Outreach** - Jen from Rockingham Planning Commission suggested putting together videos to educate residents, supported by committee
 - Exeter Climate Outreach - in coordination with UNH, Kristen Murphy has reached out for SAC to be involved. Next meeting January 9th between 8-9:30 - Chetana is planning on attending. In planning stages for an event in May. Dave said the committee is trying to synthesize all the documents and information into some useful materials - the May forum to be public outreach/education about this information

- **Other Business**

- New Hampshire Climate Summit December 4th at Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center: Bev Tappan, Russ Dean, Dave Sharples, Cathy Corson and others are attending.
- 3rd Tuesday in January is public hearing on Town Budget
- Bev is point person for getting information on website. If anyone on SAC would like to get information on website get it to Bev- she is the point person for this.
- Dave submitted application for UNH Sustainability Fellow

Meeting adjourned 8:38

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood

Bev's report on Clean Energy Forum:

Recently I attended a public forum at the Exeter High School where a diverse panel of experts brought us up to date on clean energy developments.

UNH Professor Clayton Mitchell opined that the surging profitability as well as the health and environmental benefits of renewables seem likely to prevail over the political/policy roadblocks of invested petroleum interests.

State Senator Jon Morgan applauded New Hampshire's decision to join Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut in developing off-shore wind. He also vowed that the Legislature will pass another bill to increase grid payback options for local clean power suppliers.

Liberty Utilities representative Montgomery announced that their nation-wide utilities network is replacing coal with wind in one midwest locality and in another site is field testing Tesla's new Power 2 storage batteries for grid feeding at low demand (night time) hours to vastly increase profitability.

And Dan Weeks of Revision Energy presented a short visual of how their company here in the Northeast makes solar panels economically purchasable and profitable along with heat pumps, storage batteries and car chargers.

On the whole, we came away with a grain of hope for our species' future.

Jen's email:

Dear Chair Parmar

My apologies for not being able to attend tonight's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting. If possible, I would like to respectfully ask that a few of my comments/questions be included in the discussion tonight if time permits:

Public Outreach

The minutes from the meeting included a task for all committee members to "brainstorm ways in which the public can be educated about the Budget Recommendations Committee Decision and what options there are moving forward."

I have a thought that would apply to this but could also extend well beyond. Would SAC please consider producing a series of informative videos in collaboration with ExeterTV? This could be an effective way to reach Exeter citizens. It is my understanding our use of ExeterTV's services would not have a fee associated.

The first video in the series could kick off in early January with a recap of our sustainability efforts so far. A subcommittee could be formed to flesh this out, but my initial thought is that we could dive into the details of the Sustainability Coordinator job description, recap the budget approval process, explain what the Select Board's role will be in January with regard to approving line items in the budget, and highlight the importance of the Town deliberative session, etc. And to do this in a friendly and informative way in order to appeal to those who may be new to our efforts and the Town process entirely!

Perhaps another video could include interviews/chats with other NE towns who have taken the lead on Sustainability.

And maybe we could do a series of "how tos" that are seasonally related on simple actions citizens can take from home or as a community.

This planning would definitely benefit from a subcommittee's efforts. I could likely be on that if it can meet before 1:00pm weekdays.

Gap Analysis

The other item I wanted to provide an update on is info relating to the gap analysis that some have asked our committee to perform. Because we have not yet been able to get more info on what this format should look like from Town staff or officials, I connected with Julie LeBranch from Rockingham Planning Commission to see if she could help. She sent me this link by something that was done for SeaGrant and NOAA: https://estuaries.org/download/summit/2016/proceedings/session_vii/Ellis.pdf

She also confirmed that the NH Coastal Program grant actually covers work to complete both the situation assessment and needs assessment. Both assessments will be “living documents” that get updated every year or so. Assuming the grant gets approval from the Governor and Council, it be in place by late January.

Composting at the Transfer Station

I had watched the Select Board meeting where Exeter resident Bob Kelly was awarded a contract to set up his composting business at the transfer station. I heard several Select Board members speak to how this was a wonderful opportunity for Sustainability. This made me wonder why our committee was not part of this decision-making process? It's a big step for Exeter. Was that just an oversight or will our committee not be able to participate in these types of Town based decisions as SAC? Going forward, is there any opportunity for us to be included in any discussion relating to Town composting going forward?

Thank you for your continued leadership of our committee, Chair Pamar! I look forward to reviewing the meeting minutes and watching the video.

SAC member Jenn Brackett Piskovitz

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood

Nina Braun comments sent in:

In regards to the Sustainability town position - I think that will require a separate plan of awareness directed specifically at those who will be voting on the budget. I would like the SF to address concerns and create awareness to the general public, and in some way, weave the issue in as to the importance of the town taking serious measures to ensure we are able to set and reach specific sustainability goals for the town of Exeter (by hiring someone!) If we hold the event in March we will know the outcome and can direct our outreach accordingly.