

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2020**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chetana Parmar.

Members Present: Christopher Zigmont, Nina Braun, Chetana Parmar, Kristen Osterwood, Robin Tyner, Beverly Tappan and Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative (Dave Sharples, Town Representative unable to attend)

Philips Exeter Academy Student Representative: Liuxi Sun

January Meeting Minutes:

Public Comments

Sam and Maggie from Philips Exeter that are in a class Human Population and Resource Consumption - have a course where they have a project to do and would like to do something with/for the Sustainability Committee - politically related would be great. Robin and Nina will follow up with ideas for them.

Bob Kelly owns Seacoast farms compost product: has been primary supplier of compost blends for the seacoast for decades. Have been located in Fremont for most of those years. Landlord wanted to redevelop property so Bob is working with the town to operate out of the transfer station. Also be able to provide a distribution network - currently the town accepts leaves but does not necessarily create a high quality compost product. He plans to provide a yard of material for free for everyone who has a dump sticker. Also to save town money on operation of the town transfer station. Use a different a gate - off of Kingston Rd, to not increase traffic.

- two people and two pieces of equipment (screener and front end loader)
- Public private partnership with a memorandum of understanding
- May require dump sticker to be able to drop off and pick up
- To start soon, hopefully by March

Sustainability Fair

- Liuxi Presented the goals and ideas of how to achieve those goals (attached to the end of the minutes)
- Settle on a location and theme for submissions. Swayze parkway - talk to Greg or Melissa at Parks and Rec

- Need to get a subcommittee going and date selection - Chris and Nina will chair committee with Luixi.

Beverly report on Kittery Climate Change Film Fest (attached at end of minutes)

Update on another member joining committee:

- no one has applied, but encourage people to apply

Climate Action Warrant Article 27 (Warrant is attached at end of minutes)

- Public comment from Jenn Brackett Piskovitz is attached at the end
- Randy gathered signatures to get warrant article submitted
- Motion by Chris for committee to support warrant article 27, Robin seconded, unanimously approved

Granite Bridge Warrant Article 25 (Warrant is attached at end of minutes)

- Robin read statement from the energy committee
- Motion to support the warrant article 25 that opposes the Granite Bridge Chris motioned, Nina seconded, approved (Kristen abstaining)
- Town election is March 10th from 7 am to 8 pm

Robin motioned to adjourn, approved by all. Adjourned at 8:23

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood

Public Comment from Jenn Brackett Piskovitz

I am here today asking Exeter voters to support Article 27 because it would show the commitment and action of the proclamation by the Town of Exeter in July 2017 to uphold the principals of the of the Paris Climate Accord.

We continue to witness the impact storm surge and climate change are having here on the Seacoast and beyond as we experience rising sea levels, increased storm activity and poor air quality. We must work together to move the ball forward in support of bold climate initiatives.

Exeter has an opportunity to join up with over 70 NH towns looking to send an urgent message to State and Federal legislators that carbon emissions should no longer be free and they must act now.

A Carbon Fee Dividend approach has bipartisan support at the federal level. It would charge a fee to fossil fuel companies and industries for their emissions which would help the U.S. drive down our carbon pollution. 100% of the net revenues would then be allocated to American households as a dividend administered by the U.S. Treasury.

For more details on a Carbon Fee Dividends approach visit energyinnovationact.org and carboncashback.org

Conservation Hawks is a group of hunters and anglers working to defend America's sporting heritage who..."recognize the serious and potentially catastrophic threat we face from human-caused climate change. Because of the certitude of the science, Conservation Hawks supports every reasonable effort, including carbon fee & dividend legislation, to limit greenhouse gas emissions and protect our American way of life. Conservation Hawks considers human-caused climate change to be the number one threat to our hunting & fishing, as well as to our children and to a prosperous American future."

The Nature Conservancy says..."It's clear that we must address the substantial and growing threats posed by climate change. A bill like this, which makes a firm commitment to placing a price on pollution and reducing the emissions that threaten our communities, our health and our planet, is a necessary component of any effective plan to address climate change. We're pleased to see a bipartisan group of members of the House Climate Solutions Caucus continue to press this issue on Capitol Hill. We need durable, bipartisan action on climate change."

Our young people are pleading with us to stop passively hoping and start acting as if our house is on fire when it comes to our climate crisis. What is one thing you can do now? Vote YES on article 27 in support of this resolution to take action on climate pollution.

Article 27 - Citizen's Petition Article - Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution

By petition, New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution We the town of EXETER hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbonpricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety. We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which we all rely. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to EXETER's State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to EXETER's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by EXETER's Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.

Article 25 - Citizen's Petition Article - Granite Bridge Project

By petition, Shall the town express its opposition to the Granite Bridge Pipeline project. The scope of this project vastly exceeds the current and future energy demands in New Hampshire. The likely changes in energy production could result in ratepayers paying for technology that will be obsolete before it's operational. Public Utilities Commission contracted consultants reviewing the project have said the proposed plan is excessively costly and overbuilt for the long term energy needs of New Hampshire. As proposed by Liberty Utilities, the project includes a 27 mile fracked gas pipeline along Rt. 101 from Manchester to Exeter, a metering station at the site of the Exeter water treatment plant and the construction of a 2 billion cubic foot storage tank (larger than the rainbow tank in Boston) in the Epping quarry. The pipeline would cross the Lamprey River twice and run alongside Lake Massabesic potentially threatening drinking water supply. The safety risks of gas pipelines is evident in the recent leaks and explosions in Keene and Lawrence, Massachusetts. Furthermore this fossil fuel project with its methane emissions is in opposition to the principles of Exeter's "Right to a Healthy Climate Ordinance" passed in 2019 and the Select board's vote to support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Upon passage the voters request that the Select board send copies of this resolution with a record of the vote to Liberty Utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Site Evaluation Committee, and all State Senators.

