

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2020**

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

Members Present: Christopher Zigmont, Nina Braun, Chetana Parmar, Kristen Osterwood, Beverly Tappan and Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative, Dave Sharples, Town Representative

Chetana read emergency order

All board members introduced themselves

Approval of meeting minutes from April: Motion to approve by Chris, 2nd by Nina.

Melissa discussed the Great Bay General Permit

The Great Bay General Permit is open for comment through the end of this week. “Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit” drafted by EPA in early January - it is a requirement of the Clean Water Act. Much of the Great Bay does not meet state water quality standards. This water body is designated as “impaired” therefore the EPA is required to work on controlling the sources that are causing the impairment. Exeter wastewater treatment plant is great - but there are 12 other wastewater treatment plants, some of which are operating with very antiquated permits. Driver for this general permit is the antiquated permits. Much of the impairment of the water body is caused by nitrogen. Stormwater accounts for 2/3 of the nitrogen load. So permit requires towns to reduce nitrogen in both wastewater effluent and stormwater. Comment period has been extended since original end in March to May 8th. If this permit goes forward it will have significant consequences for municipalities - lots of planning implications. Permit has a series of four 5 year period - each 5 years each communities would need to reduce nitrogen loads by 11%. I

If anyone is interested in submitting a public comment, information about the permit and submitting comments here: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/draft-great-bay-total-nitrogen-general-permit>, OR comments can be submitted through CLF action alert https://act.clf.org/page/18852/action/1?ea.tracking.id=TWorganic&fbclid=IwAR0RgcBV8mcZ7ksL0Wm3hSEl4ekKvmCr5mAKkUUF LBgeiDSAFiQHG_uxEII

Communication

Nina provided an update on bringing sustainability fair online.

Discussion of communication issues. Current ability of SAC to communicate with townspeople is not sufficient.

Dave has updated website and included Sustainable Exeter.

Public Comment

Sally Ward: Recommend to formerly approve the job description for Sustainability Coordinator.

Terri Harmon from Oak Street: focus on what and then how. Recommend approving job description and sending it to the select board.

Much discussion

Approval of job description will be on next agenda

Discussion of warrant articles follow up, Article 25 and 27.

Bev: Tax implications with renewable energy

Dave updates

- Exeter is doing a lot with both wastewater treatment plant update and stormwater management. It is mandated that nitrogen loading is reduced by 60% by ordinance. Exeter is doing quite a bit already
- GHG emissions inventory is going ahead - the fellow will be 100% virtual
- Dave was approached by a significant solar array project 3.5 MW project. Unitil makes it feasible with net metering policies.

Chris will be Vice Chair for SAC (unanimous vote)

Chetana motioned to adjourn, approved by all. Adjourned at 8:59

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.