

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2021**

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

Chetana Parmar read emergency order

Members Present: Chetana Parmar, Kristen Osterwood, Beverly Tappan, Jackie Ojala, Adam Dumville, Christopher Zigmont, and Niko Papakonstantis (Select Board Representative) and Dave Sharples (Town Representative). Also present: Julie LeBranch.

Approval of meeting minutes from February 2, 2021: Motion to approve by Chetana, 2nd by Chris

DPW on composting: Statement of support was read at the Select Board meeting. Jennifer Perry stated the potential start date will be March 16th.

Earth Day:

- Promoting composting as part of Earth Days
- Handing out stickers for recycling bins of appropriate items to recycle
- Tips on what you can do as part of Earth week to go on social media

Dave updates:

- NEMS (New England Municipality Sustainability network) - group of sustainability professions across New England, Dave is part of.
- Solar on landfill is up for a vote next week. Dave did an informational video on the topic.
- Solar array on DPW was approved to purchase by the Select Board.
- Unable to find UNH fact sheet on watering gardens
- Green Minute Video: all boards do one minute video to update the public on what the board has been up to sustainability wise
- Discussing of drilling to find more ground water resources for the town of Exeter

Communication Updates:

- Will hopefully get some information to Dave for posting
- **Julie updates:**

- Brief discussion of investigation of ground water options for Exeter
- Sustainable Exeter update - see attached document
 - Julie will share with town department heads
 - Before next month Julie will prepare a checklist of To Dos for town departments to review at the next meeting
 - Discussion of phrasing of “Sustainable Exeter”- statement or goal?

Bev Update:

- Sustainability Committee at Riverwoods - promoting on toilet paper (“Who Gives a Crap”) made from bamboo

Reminder:

- Encourage friends and neighbors to get out and vote (vote for solar array Article 4)
- Send any ideas for Green Minute video to Chetana

8:24 meeting adjourned, motion by Christopher.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood

SUSTAINABLE EXETER CAMPAIGN

Recommendation #1:

The tag line “*Sustainable Exeter*” becomes the brand recognition for all town actions, events and initiatives that fall under the sustainability and resilience umbrella including social media posts, event advertising, documents and reports. The brand could be a “logo” graphic or simply the words “Sustainable Exeter” formatted as a graphic file.

The *Sustainable Exeter* Campaign will ensure that sustainability in all of its forms is recognized, supported and actively encouraged throughout the community. No doubt many in the community may not even realize that everyday activities and actions are in fact sustainability actions. The more visible community support and stewardship are, the more effective the town’s actions and investments in sustainability and resilience will be.

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Recommendation #2: Advance a proposal to the Select Board to adopt the Sustainable Exeter Campaign as a policy.

SUSTAINABLE EXETER WEBSITE

<https://www.exeternh.gov/planning-sustainability/sustainable-exeter>

Recommendation #3: Post the Needs Assessment and Situation Assessment documents produced by the Exeter Resilience project to the Sustainable Exeter webpage.

Recommendation #4: Post information and materials about the Exeter Resilience project to the Sustainable Exeter webpage.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc-sa>

SAC Near-time Agenda items (first 6-9 months):

1. Work with the Budget Committee to establish a line item in the 2020 town budget for the Sustainability Office/Coordinator based on Exeter specific research conducted in conjunction with town officials, boards and committees. Provide guidance for alignment, core functions, personnel/job description/s, budget and expenses. **Recommendation #5: Update**
2. Engage with and advise town committees working on Capital Improvement Project (CIP) initiatives (ie Library Committee, Parks & Rec sustainable designs, etc.) **Status?**
3. Establish role and protocol for official website and social media deployment by the SAC. **Has the SAC member Nina Braun on the Communications Committee taken on this role? I don’t see any materials posted on the committee website that describe any new policies, procedures or initiatives.**

Post town accomplishments, along with the many areas where future action is needed, including indication of urgency and impact. **Recommendation #6:** Post the Needs Assessment and Situation Assessment documents produced by the Exeter Resilience project to the SAC webpage.

4. Draft Exeter vision and goals in coordination with Energy & Conservation Committees **Status?**

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE OUTLETS

Facebook:

- Exeter Community Forum
- Posts by individuals/residents and businesses, board and committee members
- Reposts to advertise events by others in NH, nationally, globally

Presence on other Board/Committee Webpages:

Energy Committee, Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission, Communications Advisory Committee

OTHER PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Recommendation #7: Partner with local and regional stakeholders to advance the Sustainable Exeter Campaign through town and community action, funding and assistance.

Local Activities:

Partner with Community Service Organizations that promote sustainable and resilience practices in their work such as affordable housing, bike/walk/trails advocacy, park/ride and rideshare services, Seacoast Eat Local, NH Growers Association, farm alliances, Southeast Land Trust and land conservation organizations, and renewable energy programs.

Regional Sources of Funding and Technical Assistance:

Rockingham Planning Commission

NHDES Coastal Program

UNH Cooperative Extension

NH Sea Grant

NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup

NH Charitable Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (planning and energy programs)