

August 3, 2021 – Exeter Sustainability Committee Meeting Notes

- Present: Beverly, Chetana, Jackie, Adam and David Sharples.

- Minutes June – no changes. Motion to Adopt is approved.

- Last time, the Committee voted to submit a budget line item to the Town’s Budget Committee for a sustainability officer. Chetana putting together a package explaining why our committee is requesting such funding. Chetana will share before submission hopefully be end of the week.

- Swayze Park agenda item. Closed to traffic. BOS decided to have the Parkway stay closed to traffic through Labor Day.
 - o Committee to consider whether the Town should move to a permanent parking / driving ban.
 - Are there environmental benefits of it closed?
 - o But Swayze must be open still for vendors to go through.
 - o Any impact to the Town on the closure so far due to COVID?
 - Unsure
 - o Deed for the land says “recreational vehicles” must allow for access.
 - o We can take a vote on it when more information is presented – or when a warrant article is presented.
 - o Some of the other committees are also discussing Swayze Park changes

- Single Use Plastic Policy
 - o Haven’t been able to specifically determine how Portsmouth has implemented the Single Use Plastic Policy.
 - o Some communities in Maine may have also implemented this policy, as well as the State of Vermont.
 - o The proposed ban would apply to any event on Town property; vendors on side walk; mobile vending; events at the recreation park (potentially schools if schools are owned by the Town).
 - o We would want to give examples of what single-use plastics are.
 - Single use plastics include: forks, straws, cups
 - o Everyone should review the policy and mark up for the next meeting.

- Coastal Resiliency
 - o Update on Survey and Report that was Due on June 30th
 - o Tim Roach, from Rockingham County Commission, is on vacation and couldn’t be reached to discuss the status of the plan

- Open Discussion

o Beverly Ideas

- Idea about tax incentives for electric vehicles. Dave to investigate.
- Pickpocket Dam – keep in mind for future action. Consider removing.
- Wetlands down by the water are going to be flooded more often. We should be looking to the future.
- Sewers backing up as water levels rise.

o Jackie – pumpkin composting event.

- Jackie to work through the event and contact Laney and Lu

Motion to Adjourn – 7:38