

Town of Exeter Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
FINAL MINUTES
February 7, 2023

Present: Chetana Parmar, Chris Zigmont, Stacey Rogers, Ryan Jean, Adam Dumville, Kristen Murphy, Select Board Member Niko Papakonstantis

1. Chetana Parmar, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:01 PM
2. Chetana welcomed Ryan Jean as a new member of SAC
3. Chris motion to approve minutes from last meeting; Stacey seconded
4. Kristen Murphy presented on the status of the proposed single-use plastics ban on Town-owned property.
 - a. There were three public hearings.
 - b. The proposed ban was also discussed at meeting this past Monday with the Select Board.
 - c. At the third public meeting, the Select Board requested that SAC change the proposed ordinance to a policy.
 - d. Select Board Member Papakonstantis clarified that the past Monday's meeting was only a discussion on the policy and not a public hearing.
 - e. Select Board Member Papakonstantis also clarified the Select Board can hold additional hearings on the ordinance in the future.
 - f. Select Board ultimately preferred to have the public decide through a public petition, which has been submitted to the Town Clerk.
 - g. Chetana noted that the public petition will be voted on March 15 at Town Meeting Day
5. State Representative Gilman presented on recycling and provided the Committee with an update of relevant bills at the State House.
 - a. HB 226 – proposes to allow communities to regulate single use plastics. HB 226 is now going to Executive Session. Concerns have been raised about definitions of “point of sale” and “single use packaging” However, there was significant public support for this bill. Since the bill is headed to Executive Session, at this juncture, no more public comments can be provided directly to the Committee.
 - b. SB 267-FN – Proposes to allow DES overhaul recycling rules. The Senate Committee considering the bill held a hearing on the bill today, but there is still

time to submit comments. Representative Gilman encouraged members of the community to support this bill by submitting comments to their representatives.

6. SAC will work on creating a Climate Action Plan and include that in future Master Plan Revisions.
 - a. Kristen offered that SAC could take action agenda and identify what roles SAC can play. Grants may be available for energy reduction and climate action plans. Money could be used for retaining consultants.
7. Carry In / Carry Out Policy
 - a. There is already an existing policy in Town to Carry In and Carry Out. Signage should be added to these areas to promote the Town's policy.
 - b. There is also a permit requirement for such Carry In and Carry Out policy.
8. Charge of SAC
 - a. Adam Motion to approve, Stacey seconded, all in favor
9. Public Safety Complex – All agreed on letter of support for the Public Safety Complex.
 - a. Adam Motion to approve, Chris seconded, all in favor.
10. Building Codes
 - a. Stacey looking into bringing in a person for sustainability purposes to assess building codes.
 - b. State of NH just adopted building codes from 2018.
 - c. Grants through the Federal Government, provided to the States, may be available to assist. Kristen will keep SAC updated.
11. Grants and Deadlines for Water Bottle Refill Deadlines
 - a. Several grants could allow for installation, but not for installation.
 - b. SAC would like to see a \$10,000 grant for purchase the unit, trenching, and connection for the system, and a \$2,000 allocation for water purchase.
 - c. SAC could have some additional savings if the Town can partner with a local contractor. If that is possible, there is a potential to install two water fountains.
 - d. NH Charitable Foundation.
 - e. Waste Management has a charitable giving opportunity.

- f. Wal-Mart, Patagonia, Exeter Hospital have other options.

12. Helpsy Textile Recycling

- a. If you cannot donate to local organizations, they will come and pick up your textiles (3 bags minimum).
- b. Potential to put a drive together with assistance from local schools. Target for Earth Day?

13. All Boards Meeting Tomorrow – 6 PM to 9 PM at Exeter Library

14. Chris Zigmont – suggests to add a subcommittee to address blue bags, solid waste, etc.

- a. Are there other alternatives for solid waste disposal? How can we reduce solid waste? Compostable options. Size of bins. Work with public works.

15. Motion to Adjourn at 8:19 by Chris; Seconded by Stacey

/AMD