

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
12/5/23**

Meeting was called to order by Chetana at 7:05pm

Members present: Chetana Parmar, Chris Zigmont, Nina Braun, Ryan Jean, and Jackie Ojala

Staff and Select Board Member Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner
Dan Chartrand, Select Board Representative

Adam Dumville has left the committee and the SAC thanks him for his contributions

Motion by Chris, 2nd by Jackie to **approve meeting minutes from 01Aug23** as presented.
Motion passes, unanimously.

Motion by Chris, 2nd by Ryan to **approve meeting minutes from 05Sep23** as presented. Motion passes, unanimously.

SAC Roles/Future Options

- Change the Cadence of Meetings
 - Likely would not have to change the committee's charge to change the cadence, Kristen will confirm this
 - Kristen will have Rus talk to legal about if we could reduce the size of the committee to reduce the number needed for a quorum
 - The committee is concerned that quarterly meetings are too far apart, and if one meeting is missed it could be 6 months between meetings.
 - The committee supports meeting every other month, beginning January 2024, to ease the burden of quorum and chair responsibilities
 - Motion by Chetana, 2nd by Chris to **change the cadence of SAC meetings from monthly to every other month**. Motion passes, unanimously.
- Merge with the Energy Committee
 - The Select Board has been considering merging committees in response to post-Covid attendance challenges
 - The energy committee will be down two members at the end of the month
 - There is an overlap on both charges
 - Chetana would be disappointed if sustainability was an add-on to the energy agenda, as energy is just a part of sustainability
 - Ryan has sat in on the energy committee as part of the public and feels we have similar goals and interests – as long as we have proper sub-committee representation
 - Chris emphasizes that a true merger with the Energy meeting would mean each committee would be equally able to raise the issues on their agendas.

- Kristen’s role didn’t exist pre-SAC, but she will still be available to work on sustainability issues even after merging
- Kristen can organize a time for Energy & SAC to meet in early Jan
 - Need to discuss the time of meetings if merging, among other concerns
- SAC Roles
 - Motion by Chetana, 2nd by Ryan to **appoint Chris Zigmont as Chair** of the SAC. Motion passes, unanimously.
 - Motion by Chris, 2nd by Nina to **appoint Chetana Parmar as Vice Chair** of the SAC as presented. Motion passes, unanimously.
 - Jackie Ojala was previously voted as SAC clerk in the June 2023 meeting and will remain in this role.

Compost Bins Giveaway

- SAC has funds this year to purchase 32 bins with a small pack of bags – Kristen will buy them
- SAC would like to give away 30 bins to families who will commit to working with us for a year and reporting the results
 - The committee will select diverse families
 - Potential to work with schools
 - Chris, Jackie, and Nina will work as a sub-committee to coordinate this with Kristen
- Committee to consider organizing a quarterly sustainability-related activity for the town, and could do related giveaways with these events
 - “giveaways” should be focused on reaching a new audience

Pumpkin Composting Feedback

- Chetana attended and reported that it went well. There were possibly fewer participants than in previous years, but there was still a good turnout
- Emphasize the “why” next year when spreading the word for the event
 - There are questions on the town’s Facebook about why you would bring pumpkins to Laney & Lu vs your backyard. Either is fine, the SAC would just like Laney & Lu composting to be an alternate option to pumpkins ending up in the landfill
- Thank you to Laney & Lu for their continued support
- The town is maxing out the 4 compost bins at DPW
 - Dan & Kristen will coordinate Water St Bookstore sponsoring a 5th bin
- Ryan mentioned Mr. Fox will be picking up from Revision Energy in Brentwood and they have hired for a sustainability-focused role
- York, ME is piloting curbside compost pickup with Mr. Fox, they will share the findings with Kristen

Single-Use Plastic Ordinance

- Chris will reach out to the select board to get back on the agenda so SAC members can be present for further discussion

With no additional business, Chetana motioned, and Chris seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Ojala