



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee Tuesday 07 Feb 2023 at 7pm

1. Call SAC Meeting to Order/Welcome
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of Minutes (03 Jan 2023 attached)

Action Items

1. Single-use plastic document for Exeter - Kristen Murphy update following 4th Public Hearing
2. HB226 presentation - municipalities to regulate point-of-sale distribution of single-use-plastics - Julie Gilman
3. Climate Action Plan for Exeter - discussion
4. Carry In/Carry Out Policy for Town property – discussion
5. Sub-committee - finalize the update on the Charge
6. Public Safety Complex email
7. Speakers on building codes
8. Grants - lists/deadlines for water bottle refill stations - Kristen Murphy
9. Other Business:
10. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 7pm

Chetana Palmer
Sustainability Advisory Committee, Chair

Posted February 3rd, 2023 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Jan 3rd, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Chetana at 7:02pm

Members present: Chetana Palmer, Chris Zigmont, Nina Braun, Stacey Rogers and Jackie Ojala

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

Other Attendees: Ryan Jean, resident

Motion by Chris, 2nd by Stacey to **approve meeting minutes from Dec 12th** as presented. Motion passes, unanimously.

Single Use Plastics

- Kristen provided recap of the 3rd public hearing at select board
 - The select board was more supportive of a town policy vs an ordinance
 - SAC members discussed and agreed that due to the importance and urgency of the climate crisis an ordinance is better suited than a policy
 - Chetana motioned, Nina second to keep the proposed ordinance as an ordinance. The motion passes, unanimously.
 - Kristen, Chris, and Nina to form a sub-committee to draft a one-page cheat sheet explaining the proposed ordinance to attach to permit applications
 - SAC will submit a memo explaining why an ordinance vs a policy is preferred to select board packet on the Wednesday before the 4th reading on Jan 30th, 2023.
- Update on the Charge
 - Jackie to send the most recent draft of the charge to SAC members via email, SAC members will make notes independently to discuss at the next meeting
- Sustainable building grants
 - Ryan mentioned that Building and electrical codes are privately created and difficult to access
 - SAC will try to schedule a speaker on sustainable building concepts in April.
 - Nina and Stacey to connect with their contacts to see if interested in speaking
- Water bottle refill station support
 - SAC discussed possible locations including near the public restrooms, Swasey parkway, and near the boathouse (would need PEA assistance)
 - Approximately \$3-5k to install one water bottle refill station
 - Kristen has located 5 or 6 grant options, many open in the Spring
- Chetana will send year-end report to the town

With no additional business, Chetana motioned, and Chris seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Ojala

1. Advise and support the Conservation & Sustainability Planner.
2. Promote Sustainability within the context of current town operations.
 - Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (ref: The Brundtland Report, 1987)

In Exeter, this means addressing the many urgent climate and environmental priorities cited in the Master Plan and raised by citizens, including:

- Climate change impacts
 - Pollution
 - Water quality
 - Air quality
 - Maintaining and monitoring open spaces, conservation, and wetlands
 - Sense of community
3. Review and recommend at least 2 sustainability-related priorities and initiatives a year on proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects and warrant articles.
 4. Advise and coordinate with the Select Board, Town Manager, Conservation & Sustainability Planner, and all relevant town departments and committees in pursuit of grants and state and federal funds for sustainability initiatives.
 5. Identify priority community partners and stakeholders in sustainability efforts, so the Sustainability Office/Coordinator and town officials can engage most effectively.
 6. Establish a communication plan to coordinate and engage with community partners and stakeholders in sustainability needs and initiatives.

7. Perform periodic gap analyses of what Exeter has accomplished (both community and town government) regarding sustainability efforts and recommend what needs to be accomplished.
8. Produce an annual report to the Select Board encompassing the areas above and progress in each of these areas.

February 01, 2023

Chetana Parmar, Chairperson
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Exeter, NH 03833

RE: Police and Fire Complex

Dear Members of the Town of Exeter Select Board,

We are writing to you today to express the unanimous, qualified support of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for the Police and Fire Complex plan moving its way toward the 2023 Warrant. Our support remains contingent on the successful deployment of the increased funding added to the proposed budget and plan during the budget process in achieving “Net Zero” status, and that a renewable energy solution be part of the final plan.

It is the position of the SAC that new municipal construction projects that are built for generations of service be built with the future in mind and state of the art sustainability featuring renewable energy as a cornerstone.

Respectfully,
For and on behalf of the SAC

Chetana Parmar

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

January 01-December 31 2022

Annual Report

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed in July 2019.

As the pandemic and health & safety restrictions were eased, SAC was able to begin holding meetings in-person. As much as the hybrid/in-person meetings allowed committee members to reduce their own carbon footprint by joining via zoom as well as balancing and being flexible with family commitments, the committee was not able to hold hybrid meetings unless there was a quorum in-person. Due to this situation, we had 2 key members who had been valuable members of the SAC since 2019, decided step-down. We would like to thank them for their contribution to the committee.

One of the key charges of SAC was to work with the Town to eventually have a paid Sustainability Coordinator in position. With budget strains due to the pandemic, the SAC welcomed the Town's proposal of having an individual moving from a part-time role in the Planning Department to the role of Conservation and Sustainability Planner. SAC is so grateful for this as we have Kristen Murphy who is able to be actively involved in moving our agenda forward at a quicker pace and be our connection with Town departments when it comes to issues of sustainability.

With the Conservation and Sustainability Planner, SAC has been able to work through at a faster pace, the putting together the Ordinance for banning the distribution of single-use-plastics on municipal property. The Ordinance has had 3 public hearings in front of the Select Board and a 4th hearing is set for January 30th 2023.

The SAC helped 2 students from Philips Exeter Academy with their environmental project on reducing junk mail. The information was shared with residents who attended the Alewife Festival in May 14, 2022. A mini-film festival was also presented at the Town Hall in the evening which saw a few people attend, but with greater communication, the attendance would have been higher. Sustainability outreach was limited and it is hoped that as things resume to 'normal' that 2023 will see more sustainability events. SAC, once again did manage to work with Laney & Lu to collect pumpkins after Halloween. Laney & Lu allowed residents to drop off the pumpkins into the composting bins and receive a free coffee for the effort. A local chapter of the Girl Scouts volunteered with directing residents to the appropriate bins to leave their pumpkins. Mr. Fox Composting collected the pumpkins. Flyers for the event were posted with information on why pumpkins should not be landfilled as they add to the carbon emissions.

The SAC continues to raise awareness of the FREE composting of all organics available to residents at the Transfer Station. Mr. Fox providing the composting bins. A service that is welcomed. Also with the efforts by Department of Public Works having the organization Helpsy to collect curbside unwanted textiles for recycling has meant less % going to landfill. Both services have been a success in reducing the amount of waste to landfill. With continued effort to spread awareness, it is hoped that more people will see a reduction in the number of blue bags they are using for landfill.

The SAC continues to work on how to outreach and utilize social media to engage with more of the residents of Exeter. The committee continues to post environmental tips and articles on its Facebook page, and works closely with DPW to ensure that residents are up-to-date with what is recyclable.

SAC will continue working and fulfilling its Charge (this was updated in 2022) into 2023

For and on behalf of the SAC

Chetana Parmar

Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair