Sustainable Hanover Committee
Minutes, April 21, 2021

Present: Marjorie Rogalski, Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Chris Kennedy, Dennis Robison, Judi Colla, Rob Houseman, Peter Kulbacki, Julia Griffin, Stowe Beam, Susan Edwards, Nancy Serrell, Marcus Welker
Guests: Jennifer Gantrish, General Welfare Assistance, Hanover, Rob Taylor (Energy Subcommittee).

Guest Introduction: Judi Colla introduced Jen Gantrish, Hanover’s Director of General Welfare Assistance. She was invited to share her experiences in working with individuals and families needing assistance in the Hanover area as a way of educating the SHC on issues of equity, inclusiveness and justice (EIJ). Rob Taylor, a member of SHC Energy Subcommittee.

Minutes: the minutes of March 17, 2021 were approved as corrected. Susan Edwards was not in attendance.

Announcements:
• Richmond Middle School is preparing a march from school to the green in Hanover as a celebration of Earth Day beginning around 3:20pm. This is an opportunity to publicize the Annual Forum with posters.
• Annual Forum: April 29, Noon-1:30pm. An announcement with the zoom link will be coming out soon. There are 5 videos to be interspersed between speakers. Three are from businesses.
• Ebike starts May 10 – a flyer with a reservation form will be going out soon.
• Frances Moore Lappe will be speaking at a Sustainable Woodstock event on April 22.
• No SHC Yardsale this year.

Low Income Needs – Hanover: Jen Gantrish. Every town in New Hampshire has a welfare coordinator whereas Vermont has a state office. There is extensive documentation for assistance whether it be individual (or family) needs, help with summer camp memberships, etc. Hanover needs are sporadic. Some involve people who are passing through who need vouchers for overnight accommodations, bus transportation, etc. Gile Hill rentals has mixed housing and might be an opportunity for energy assistance via community solar. Evictions are not common in Hanover. COVID-19’s effect has been to decrease need since people are staying in place. Judi suggested we should explore the idea of an article in the SHC Newsletter featuring Jen’s observations, SHC’s value statement and work being done to assist lower income people e.g., community solar. She will work on a collaborative article, perhaps for the Summer issue.

IECC National Model Energy Code update: Rob Taylor – There is no downside for this update – the construction costs are minimal and the savings substantial. It will support the Ready for 100 goals. NH adopted the standards in 2015 with exceptions. Since then there have been IECC National Model Energy Code upgrades in 2018 and 2021. The recommendation is for Hanover to adopt standards that are higher than those mandated by NH and seek endorsement from SHC to the Selectboard. By
common consent, the SHC unanimously endorsed the motion of support from the Energy Subcommittee.

**Multiple Use Path (MUP)** letter of support to Representative Annie Kuster. An opportunity to tap into Congressional funds came up with a quick deadline for a proposal. Yolanda explained that she and a few other members of the SHC took the liberty of responding on behalf of the Committee with a letter of support for the Town of Hanover to pursue the opportunity. The proposed MUP was one that had been developed, with support from the Town and Dartmouth College, and was awaiting funding. There may be up to $250,000 in funds available.

**Updates:**

- **Window Dressers:** This organization is adding Vermont to its efforts. Since Norwich and Hanover are working together, we’ve been included. According to the website (WindowDressers.com) “WindowDressers brings volunteers together to improve the warmth and comfort of homes, lower heating costs, and reduce CO2 emissions by producing low-cost insulating window inserts that function as interior-mounted storm windows. They supply, train, and support teams of community volunteers as they build affordable, insulating window inserts at local Community Builds.” The Norwich/Hanover team will be housed in the Norwich Congregational Church and will make between 150 and 200 inserts the week before Thanksgiving. Window Dressers has low-income subsidies for households that cannot afford the inserts.

- **Newsletter:** Dennis announced that the deadline for articles would be Friday, May 14 with publication targeted for the following week. Featured will be the results of the 3rd Annual Forum plus any updates on Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), etc. There was discussion about sustainable lawn and garden issues. Barbara Callaway had contacted a new business – My Rooted Gardens of Norwich – and was impressed with what they were offering. They are willing to be a source of information for a future Newsletter (summer?) article.

- **Energy Legislation:** Julia reported that the one key legislative effort on energy to survive – HB 315 – was adopted by the House and is expected to pass the Senate. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is being criticized for failure to adopt an energy plan, thus holding up many community efforts including Hanover’s weatherization program. She also announced that Community Power Coalition New Hampshire’s website (https://www.cpcnh.org/) has been updated and encouraged everyone to become familiar with it.

Respectfully submitted

Dennis Robison, secretary