Sustainable Hanover Committee  
Minutes, May 19, 2021

Present: Marjorie Rogalski, Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Chris Kennedy, Dennis Robison, Rob Houseman, Peter Kulbacki, Julia Griffin, Stowe Beam, Susan Edwards, Marcus Welker, April Salas, Abby Wiseman.

Minutes of the April 4, 2021 meeting were approved as corrected.

Announcements:
- Today, Dartmouth Energy has a program about overcoming behavior and decision making for those who address climate change and decarbonizing society.
- Sustainable Hanover and Town staff will be offering a webinar (zoom) on Wednesday, June 2nd at 7:00pm on Hanover Community Power. There will also be a public hearing on June 7.

Annual Forum: Dennis Robison reported he was listening to the audio on the Forum in preparation for the upcoming Newsletter and found it impressive. The community efforts video taped by Abby Wiseman were a nice touch. It indicated the value of the work that has been done, particularly by Andrew Hatch, in getting local businesses involved in energy savings as well as the commitment by the Hanover High School students. Yolanda Baumgartner noted that over one third of the attendees were first time participants which was encouraging. The Poll results on future topics found battery storage and rethinking recycling tied with first place, then energy efficiency and climate friendly approach to lawns and gardens. Composting and Green Burials tied.

Solarize: There was a discussion about yard signs advertising the event - whether or not we wanted to edit existing signs to include the new website vs. new signs. Julia Griffin asked for an estimate for new signs, which will be provided. Yolanda Baumgartner reported Solarize 2.0 is officially launched and moved onto the new website. Julia Griffin reminded everyone that the Sustainable Hanover Committee is legally a Town committee so it needed to still be a part of the Town website. The goal will be to have 250 residents solarized by the end of the year.

Building code update: none at this time.

Ebikes: Yolanda Baumgartner said we’re at the half-way point. The Hanover police department has been very enthusiastic and is considering converting their existing bikes to ebikes. Dartmouth College security is also interested. Julia Griffin indicated the Town, beyond just the Police Department, might also find it useful to have ebikes to go to meetings around town. There was also mention of a possible training session for other people in Hanover. Chris Kennedy suggested that we plan ahead and gather data on the use of ebikes for educational and promotional reasons.

Multi Use Pathway (MUP): Rob Houseman showed expansion plans of the project application for federal funding that will be sent this week as part of the request for earmark monies. The Town is also asking for funds for heat pumps in the remaining Town buildings and for replacing Liberty Utilities street lights with LEDs. The Sustainable Hanover Committee will send out a plea for letters of support.

Streetscape Planning Phase 2: Rob Houseman reported that the current survey which was basically about the area around the green, would be coming back to the committee. Since this is, in part, tied to the Dartmouth renovation project, the College will pay for a portion of it. Julia Griffin cautioned that
the timing of this must take downtown businesses into consideration as they need a year or two to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Decarbonization: Chris Kennedy observed that at some level, sustainable projects need to be analyzed in terms of how sustainable they are. In the future, measuring the decarbonization of a project will be critical, such as what materials are being used, how it is being done, etc. It is now becoming a dominant theme in planning projects. The Town should think about developing an energy efficiency and decarbonization check list on projects. Examples are available from nationally recognized organizations such as LEED. The risk by not doing so is that projects end up consuming more energy than they will save.

Community Climate Connection: Barbara Callaway disclosed that the committee was continuing work on objectives, goals and strategies. They are trying to find someone to serve on the committee who is interested in legislative updates. It could be a possible role for a Dartmouth student. Julia Griffin suggested Patricia Higgins as a possible connection. She has served on the NH legislature and has a continuing interest the area. Marjorie Rogalski also has a list of possibilities and will send it to Barbara.

Waste Reduction: Marjorie Rogalski suggested the SHC should do more to promote reuse and the second hand economy. This could be by a renewed attempt to contact new residents with information. Susan Edwards said her Recycling Committee is working on this issue. She reminded everyone that past attempts of working through real estate agents failed for a variety of reasons. Yard sales have been the major effort but they are not being done this year due to COVID-19. Julia Griffin reported that the Upper Valley Business Alliance and Vital Communities are trying to reinvigorate the “welcome wagon” concept to put together information for new residents. If they are successful, SHC could be a resource for information about reuse options. Perhaps the Recycling Committee could prepare an information packet. Another source for identifying new residents is when they sign up for community power in the future. This was a segue into a discussion of the confusion about recycling and the need to get on top of what is happening.

New Business:
• Green Burials moratorium in Lebanon raised the question of its status in Hanover. Julia Griffin said it had been overwhelmed with other issues.
• Hanover Farmer’s Market: SHC has been invited to host a table at the Market in its new location at Richmond Middle School. After some discussion the invitation was declined at this point.
• Green Energy Times is celebrating their 12th anniversary. For a $75.00 contribution, SHC could have an advertisement in the celebratory issue. Julia Griffin will take care of it.

The Sustainable Hanover Committee will continue to meet via zoom through the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, secretary.