Sustainable Hanover Committee  
Minutes, June 16, 2021

Present: Marjorie Rogalski, Barbara Callaway, Dennis Robison, Rob Houseman, Julia Griffin, Stowe Beam, Susan Edwards, Marcus Welker, Evelyn Swett, Judy Payne, Rob Taylor

Minutes: The minutes of May 15, 2021 were approved.

Updates:

Window Dressers: Judy Payne reported that 30-40 households in Hanover have been contacted. November 12-14 are the dates for constructing the inserts at the Norwich Congregational Church. The Window Dressers locally are interested in contacting landlords who cater to low income renters. Julia Griffin mentioned off campus student housing might be a target and encouraged coordination with Marcus Welker, Dartmouth Sustainability Office, who is willing to pursue.

Energy Plan Update: Rob Taylor, a member of the SHC Energy subcommittee, has been on an SHC committee charged with reviewing the New Hampshire Strategic Energy Plan (NH Office of Strategic Initiatives-OSI) with the goal of submitting a report as a part of the public comment initiative by OSI. The last update in 2018 made cost effectiveness the main driver, mentioning marketing issues over 100 times and climate change once. Now open for public comment, Town Manager Julia Griffin asked Rob Taylor (building codes), Robin Kaiser (renewables), Ben Steele (Transportation) and Marjorie Rogalski (environmental damage), Barbara Callaway (weatherization/appliance rebates) to draft comments. While still a work in progress, there is a 10 page draft which Julia has read and is prepared to submit as Hanover’s response. She reported that OSI has received over 25 pages of comments so far.

Ebikes: the demonstration programs went well, with 30% more participants than last year who appeared more informed and interested in making purchases. The Hanover Police and Dartmouth Security employees attended. Hanover has ordered one for Town Hall staff. It’s use will be tracked to determine what the impact on the use of fossil fuels might be. The Hanover Police Department is looking into funds from this year’s budget that can be used for purchase of ebikes. The question of where one might recharge an ebike came up. Most owners carry their own recharging units which can be plugged into light poles in town. The 110 sockets are used for Christmas displays and are often used by Appalachian Trail walkers passing through Hanover.

SHC Logo: Marcus displayed images of the latest logos to be used by the SHC on the website and in promotions, newsletters, announcements, etc. These included programatic examples including shorter examples, e.g., Solarize to longer such as Community Climate Conversations. He encouraged feedback. A suggestion was made to rename “recycling” to “waste reduction.” Also “community climate conversations” to “community conversations”; “community power” to “Hanover Community Power.” Julia suggested there might be some further conversations needed regarding community power and Hanover since the town is now part of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) which has its own logo. She will give some further thought to this issue. It is recommended that the SHC url be a part of the logo whenever possible but it need not be more than “sustainablehanovernh.org” rather than http://www.sustainablehanovernh.org. Thanks to Marcus and Stowe for all their good work. They will be consulting Kevin Keller for the final review.

Sustainable Landscapes: Lyn Swett reported on the School Street Park progress. John Sherman (Hanover Parks and Recreation) is advocating the adoption of principles for sustainable landscapes throughout the Town. Lyn noted that the intent of the development of the School Street Park was to support our well being through garden development and community education. In an earlier email, Lyn’s concept of a Landscapes Lending Library was distributed. This is one way in which the education goal could be met by having the library located near benches situated in the garden. She is promoting the idea of having designs submitted for a physical structure that would house the collection.
Julia Griffin mentioned Helah Snelling, a recent Hanover High School graduate and a very talented artist whom Lyn might want to contact for this project. Lyn indicated she would. Julia also suggested that she contact Samantha Davidson Green, the new Director of CATV who is a film maker and very interested in sustainability issues.

Solarize: Marjorie Rogalski reported that about 15 people attended the first webinar. Names of those interested in community solar were taken. Solar installation companies ReVision and Solaflcet would like to have an open house once the COVID guidelines are relaxed. Judi Colla said the idea of a workshop for people interested in leasing land for a community solar installation came up at the Energy Subcommittee meeting. Marjorie has reached out to a number of homeowners about community solar. Kevin Davis (Norwich Solar) consulted the 3 phase power map as a source for potential landowners. He suggested a community solar project in Storrs Pond. Judi Colla and Marcus Welker shared their experiences (good and not so good) with being customers of community solar. Their experiences indicate a need for better communications and more realistic expectations for perspective customers. There was discussion about creating a document to provide information on community solar for prospective residents.

Community Power Update: Julia Griffin reported that her public presentation went well. They will do another on June 30. Rye, Portsmouth, Dover, New Market, Bristol and Durham are taking recommendations to their selectboards in the next 30 days to join the joint powers agreement. The hope is that 21 communities will ultimately join the Community Power Consortium of NH (CPCNH) – more members will result in better pricing. Julia also mentioned she had a conversation with Sen. Sheehan’s office regarding the use of earmark funds. Hanover had put in a request for heat pumps and LED street lighting conversion as well as CPCNH support. The prospects look good.

Next Meeting July 21: An in-person meeting is possible as well as a combination with zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary.