Sustainable Hanover Committee
Minutes, July 21, 2021

Present: Marjorie Rogalski, Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Dennis Robison, Rob Houseman, Julia Griffin, Susan Edwards, Marcus Welker, Judi Colla, Chris Kennedy, Peter Kulbacki, Nancy Serrell, Abby Wiseman

Minutes: The minutes of the June 16, 2021 meeting were approved.

Announcements: The Upper Valley Local Energy Showcase (Virtual) will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Marjorie will talk about the activities of the Sustainable Hanover Committee.

Updates:

Energy:

Community Power – Julia Griffin
Town voters unanimously approved the Hanover Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan at Town Meeting on July 13. This approval allows the town to move forward with the implementation. A lot of work remains to be done. Julia expects it may be next spring at the earliest when the program will be ready to be launched. The immediate next focus is with the Community Power Consortium of New Hampshire which is a critical element of the program. CPCNH is recruiting more member communities. Dover (#7) just joined. The business plan is nearly complete and there will be a celebratory gathering of communities. Julia has served as the primary contact with her counterparts who have expressed interest. There has been less interest from the North Country communities although Berlin is an exception. Keene is developing its own consortium. The Sustainable Hanover Committee will have a major role in the future working with Hanover and the CPCNH.

Solarize – Yolanda Baumgartner
The final phase of encouraging residential solarization has resulted in 26 signups of which 7 indicated an interest in community solar. This afternoon will be the first event in a while. The interest is not as high as in the past which may be a result of having picked off the low hanging fruit. The message going out is not just about solar panels but heat pumps, chargers and battery storage as well. Plans are underway for a celebration when we expect Hanover will reach our 3 year target of 250 solarized homes. This is highly likely with the installation at Summer Park housing. Community solar billing continues to be opaque and confusing in spite of the efforts of Judi Colla and Marcus Welker (recent participants). It is important that this issue be resolved for community solar to be more marketable. Julia Griffin and April Salas will intervene and contact Liberty Utilities directly to work on this issue.

Window Dressers – Yolanda Baumgartner
There has been considerable interest in this project resulting in our receiving more orders than our production capacity for this year. A number of volunteers have stepped forward, some who will be in Brattleboro for a full day of training. There has been a supply shortage of the white trim.

Communication:

Website – Marcus Welker
Logos have been posted on the google drive folder. They are not too great for expanding the size e.g., banners. This will be corrected. All members are encouraged to use the logo in correspondence such as emails and publicity relating to their projects.

Newsletter – Dennis Robison
The deadline for the summer issue is August 15, 2021. Articles are currently being planned on the recommendations from Hanover to the Office of Strategic Initiatives (Rob Taylor), SSAFE and Kendal (Dennis Robison), the Evs and Ebikes event at the Hanover Farmer’s Market (Ben Steele) and a possible article from Robert Gronauer regarding his experience of residential solar. Yolanda will feature a short piece on the use of the Town’s ebike by the Building Inspectors and other town staff. Dennis
noted that Andrew Hatch had been invited to write something for the very first issue but it had not been used for some reason. It would be good to contact him again.

**Waste Reduction:**

**Food Waste – Nancy Serrell**

Due to some health issues Nancy has not been as engaged as she had wished. She did indicate that food waste was an underappreciated topic. She wants to resume her efforts and hopes to put something on the website. Judi Colla offered to help her. There may also be some possibility of interns from Dartmouth College who could help – Marcus will look into this.

Nancy has been very involved with the Food distribution project at the United Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Volunteers are coordinating with the Haven to obtain food as well as contributions from the Church members. How the word gets out is a bit of a mystery. It is a growing program, mostly involving people outside of Hanover. It seems people who need help go to communities other than the one in which they live for assistance in order to maintain anonymity. Food insecurity is a growing problem in the Upper Valley. Yolanda mentioned a couple of contacts in the area that might be of assistance and will send their names to Nancy.

**Yard Sale – Susan Edwards**

There will not be the annual Town yard sale this year in the Dewey parking lot. However, plans are underway for a coordinated town-wide sale listing in the Fall.

**Sustaining Landscape**

**State Street Park – Lyn Swett**

Lyn was unable to attend but sent in a report which Marjorie read. By September there should be three hand crafted benches installed as well as a gardening lending library designed by Helah Snelling (Hanover High School). They are collaborating with a sculptor in Vermont who is creating a climbing sculpture which should be ready next year. They are working on content for the website – a downloadable plant list of what is planted in the park. Susan reported that she, Lyn and Judi have been working on controlling the weeds and planting ground cover. This has been hindered by a lack of regular mowing. Julia Griffin indicated this was due, in part, to the Town being unable to find temporary grounds staff. She went on to suggest that this is one of those good deeds which haven’t quite worked out. The project started out intentionally not dependent on the Town to maintain it. However the individual who was the primary mover behind State Street Park left and it has been a struggle ever since. Unless a team of volunteers can be found to meet these needs, it is going to continue to be a challenge.

**Revisioning Main Street** – will be discussed at a later date.

**Carpooling, Mass Transit** – Marjorie asked Judi Colla to put this on the Energy Subcommittee’s Transportation agenda for future discussion.

**Equity, Inclusion and Justice (EIJ) – Judi Colla**

Judi had nothing to report but did observe that there were several ongoing programs that could be construed as having EIJ components – Ebikes, Community Solar and Window Dressers as examples.

**Future Meetings:**

It was determined that there would be no meeting in August. However, those who are planning for a retreat may wish to meet in August. The September 15 meeting is planned to be an in-person meeting with zoom capabilities for those who cannot attend in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary