Sustainable Hanover Committee
Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Meeting

Present: Peter Kulbacki, Robert Houseman, Julia Griffin, Marjorie Rogalski, Stowe Bean, Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Marcus Welker, Dennis Robison, Emily Rogers. Susan Edwards, Judith Colla, Lyn Swett Miller. Guest: John Sherman, Director of Parks and Recreation

Announcements:
1. The Newsletter has been distributed and is on the website. To subscribe, go to www.hanovernh.org/subscribe.
2. The Weatherize initiative first event is Rebate Info Night on December 5, 6:30 - 8 pm at Howe Library;
3. On December 6 there will be a Youth Climate Action/Strike.
4. From Marcus Welker: Grind2Energy will be hosting a tour at Gillette Stadium on Wednesday December 4th between 11am-3pm. I double checked with our Casella rep and there is more space for members of Sustainable Hanover. If you are interested, please let me know by the end of this coming Tuesday, 11/26, so I can pass along the message. Folks would need to arrange their own transportation at this point. Dartmouth’s vehicle is full at this time.

Green Burials:
John Sherman, Hanover Director of Parks & Recreation, provided the Committee with background on green burials. He gave credit to Lee Webster who is the President of NH Funeral Resource, Education & Advocacy, for much of his information. John’s points:

- Natural burial strictly refers to the burial process and can take place in any type of cemetery;
- To qualify as a green burial, the cemetery where the burial occurs must meet certain eco-friendly criteria e.g., no embalming and eco-friendly containers including shrouds.
- Types of cemeteries include:
  - Hybrid (offering conventional and natural burials)
  - Natural Cemeteries – those that have achieved certification
  - Conservation burial grounds – one established as a land trust organization.
- Why is it important?
  - Environmental impact of conventional burials e.g, use of embalming chemicals, carbon emissions from cremation, use of natural resources for caskets, cement for vaults.
- Challenges:
  - Not owning a permanent plot;
  - No vaults require more maintenance e.g., fill needed as body decays;
  - Public perception;
  - Changing local cemetery ordinance.
- How to implement:
  - Establish an ad hoc Committee to research and make recommendations;
    - Contact regional/national advocacy groups (funerals.org/?consumers=green-burial)
    - Review and amend the town Cemetery Ordinance
    - Designate specific area within the cemetery
• Plots permanent or temporary (50-100 years).
• Headstones or no headstones.

**Weatherize Initiative:** Barbara Callaway will circulate announcements of the events to SHC members. There was a question as to how to monitor activity. Individuals can go through the Town website or energyaudit.nhsaves.com. There is a need to be clear about the process, timing and schedule. The team will create a flowchart to guide residents through the process. Julia Griffin suggested making an informative video that could be linked to the Town’s website.

**2019 LES conference report:** Those who attended found the meetings and discussion helpful. New Hampshire is lagging behind other New England states on adopting green energy power although Hanover’s efforts are definitely ahead of other communities. There were some other noteworthy items:

- There will be a meeting sponsored by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s Gulf of Maine Renewable Energy Task Force at UNH in Dover which is open to the public on December 12, 8:30am-5:30pm.

**Transportation:** Norwich (Huntley Meadow) is dedicating their EV Charging installation Saturday (Nov. 23). In addition to the installation there is a bike repair station; Hanover has plans for bicycle parking and a repair station as a part of the parking lot renovation. Marcus Welker noted some dissatisfaction with Dartmouth College bike repair sites and will share Dartmouth’s experience with Rob Houseman.

**Municipal aggregation:** Julia Griffin met with Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH) who is taking the lead on Municipal Aggregation, trying to determine whether interested communities should move forward on their own, with others joining later or start as a regional effort.

**Waste Reduction:** The Co-op is phasing out plastic bags in January, 2020. Emily Rogers reported that Gmo compostable bags will be used for vegetables. There will be a series of events over the next year advocating reuse vs. recycle. It was also noted that TREX ([https://www.trex.com/](https://www.trex.com/)) collects plastic bags acquired by the Co-op and uses them for the manufacturing of decking and furniture.

**Updates:**

- **Branding:** Judi Colla reported that work on the branding is ongoing. Satisfied with the basic image but want to connect with other organizations such as the Co-op. We also need to bring in more younger people and develop a Communication Committee.

- **Yard sale report:** Susan Edwards reported that the final amount raised was approximately $1,600, bring the balance of the account to $7,214.

- **Solarize:** Yolanda Baumgartner noted that Stowe Beam has joined the Solarize team. Stowe will be debriefing the vendors who participated in 2019 as part of the planning for 2020.

**Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be December 18, 2019, but there seemed to be some uncertainty as to whether it is necessary. Yolanda Baumgartner will query members closer to the date.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison, Secretary.