

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 8, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association

Attendees:

Commissioners: Mike Roberts, Carl Canner, Leo Laverdure, Steve Webber

Liaisons: David Gordon

Commissioners absent: Chris Christie, Chase Duffy, Carl Flowers, Richard Hewitt

Minutes taken by: Stephanie Strickland

Agenda:

Agenda Item #1: Steve's challenge: come up with a statement explaining what sustainability is that would be easily understood to people outside the commission.

Discussion

- o Mike: Sustainability in terms of a three legged chair: environment, economy, and community.
- o Steve: Need to preserve, adapt, and be self-sufficient.
- o Leo: Can meet your current needs without jeopardizing the ability for future people to meet theirs.
- o Leo: Sustainability = surviving long-term.
- o Leo: Surviving vs. thriving: wouldn't be killing animals and life so fast if we were thriving.
- o Leo: Biggest challenge is natural resources.
- o Carl: Sustainability diagram: apollonian thinking: sustainability is about balance.
- o Steve: There isn't a balance now. Problem with the master plan is that we have to fight the balance and decide what is most important.
- o Mike: Have to consider what is most threatened.
- o Steve: Biggest threat should get the most attention.
- o Leo: Have to monitor tail events, things with low probability of happening but would have a high impact if they did.
- o Carl: Need to restrain use of resources.
- o Steve: loaded words related to sustainability: preserve, adapt, self-sufficient, thriving, balance, long-term, healthy, respect, considerate.
- o Leo: Have to have things that make people stop and make choices.
- o Mike: Have to pay attention to what people really care about.

Action

- o **Action Item: Mike to look at Sustainable Measures and draft a definition of sustainability.**

Carl: Draft definition of sustainability: transcendent concern for actions and policies that affect long-term the environment, society, and economy.

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Agenda Item #2: Master Plan

Discussion

- Mike: Sustainability is its own category.
- Leo: Have to plan out at least the next fifty years, because we're doing things now that will affect us then.
- Mike: Have to consider unintended consequences of an idea.
- Mike: Recommend we use matrix and attach unintended consequences to the end.
- Mike: Fourth tier should be unintended consequences.
- Leo: Need longer planning horizon than customary in master plan.
- Mike: How can we help farmers be more sustainable?

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Action

- **Action Item: Mike to draft a matrix and send to members by Monday December 21st.**
- Mike: Sustainability would be tenth item on matrix.
- Mike: Priority and constraints should be columns in master plan.

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Agenda Item #3: Indicators

Discussion

- Mike: Don't want to lose sight of indicators but master plan takes precedence.
- Leo: Objective becomes to track trends with indicator.
- Carl: Town should keep track of how much gas and oil is used.
- Leo: What's the best heating source?
- Leo: People don't want to pay initial amount for the installation of natural gas on their street.

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Action

- **Action Item: Mike to Leo: Make copies of the work we've done to date on indicators and bring them to the next meeting.**
- Leo: Develop trends
- Carl: Important to know how much gas is used by people in town.
- Steve: Can we get data from state?
- ~~Action Item: Mike to look at Sustainable Measures and draft a definition of sustainability.~~
- ~~Carl: Draft definition of sustainability: transcendent concern for actions and policies that affect long term the environment, society, and economy.~~

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