

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9th, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association

Attendees:

Commissioners: Mike Roberts, Carl Canner, Leo Laverdure, Chase Duffy

Commissioners absent: Chris Christie, Richard Hewitt, Steve Webber, Carl Flowers

Minutes taken by: Stephanie Strickland

Agenda:

1. **Review minutes**
2. **Update on event planning**
3. **Review article on sustainability agenda**
4. **Review master plan process**

Agenda Item #1: Review minutes

Discussion

- Leo: An action item needs to be added to last week's meetings. I'm supposed to draft a list of likely predetermined and uncertain disruptive changes. A change I see coming is a gas shortage, which leads to prices inclining.
- Mike: But these kind of things change all the time. Five years ago people were worried about oil shortages but then it changed when oil was found in Brazil.
- Carl: All this fossil energy is going to end, the only question is when.
- Leo: We need to do things like organize more public transportation.
- Leo: Here's one for the social leg: the current economic decline has left unemployment rates up to 30% in low income households. One branch is that the economy recovers and the other is that it gets worse.
- Mike: Then you have to reassess how to remain a sustainable community.
- Chase: The scoring is very important to discuss.
- Mike: I think we should concentrate on the dialogue and talk about the scoring later.

Motion

- **Mike: I would like to make a motion to accept the minutes with these corrections.**
- **Unanimous agreement.**

Action

- **Action Item: Leo to draft a list of likely predetermined and uncertain disruptive changes that would affect our sustainability plans by February 23rd.**

Agenda Item #2: Update on event planning

Discussion

- Leo: Basically what's going on is that we started this as a spring celebration and then someone brought up the idea of a peace café, so I thought of a sustainability café. We can use these to find out what people in town think about sustainability. The idea was to have not just one sustainability café but many.
- * Café means a relaxed discussion.
- Leo: Don't know precisely what we're going to discuss but we have a draft. What we're doing now is preparing. We found organizations which we're sending invitation packets to. We can use a personalized cover letter asking them to host a sustainability café.
- Chase: Will it be a one time thing?
- Leo: It's intended for each organization to only host one café.
- Carl: So they would invite people from their organizations?
- Leo: Yes.
- Carl: The churches are one of the big organizations in town.
- Mike: Along with schools, youth organizations, and the senior center.
- Leo: These will be facilitator guided discussions. The facilitators will present questions such as: what is it in Groton you would most like to see preserved in 100 years? These are the type of questions that would be present.
- Leo: There should be a planning horizon of no less than 40 years but there could be more than one. There could be a 40 and a 90, the end of the century.
- Mike: It should balance what we would like to see happen and what we wouldn't want to see happen.
- Leo: There would be at least two facilitators: one could be the host and another should be recording. At least one of the café's should be open and might have a third facilitator.
- Leo: We will send invitations and have a press release. If organizations sign up then we could give them dates in the press release.
- Carl: How many do you plan on having?
- Mike: I would like to see five or six, but I wouldn't mind having more.
- Leo: We will start holding café's between March 24th and April 24th. The final café will be on April 24th, Earth Day.
- Leo: By May 1st we should have a summary available on how well the café's went. By May 31st the sustainability vision should be updated.

Agenda Item #3: Review article on sustainability agenda

Discussion

- Leo: I can write an article in the paper instead of a letter to the editor.
- Leo: Is there any time that is better than others? Should we get the article out soon or wait due to the event planning?
- Mike: I would like to see it by the end of February.
- Leo: We have to go by the press dates as well.
- Mike: Monday the 22nd is when you should have it by.
- Leo: Is this Leo writing it and having the commission sign it?
- Mike: I would definitely like the commissioners back and sign the article.

- Leo: Which means I should it in about a week so the commissioners have time to read and sign it.
- Leo: So this is basically a press release from the sustainability committee? Should the sustainability café's be mentioned?
- Chase: If you can somehow work it in.
- Mike: That's how to get people interested and it's the next step for them.

Action

- **Action Item: Leo to write an article on sustainability by February 16th.**

Agenda Item #4: Review master plan process

Discussion

- Mike: There will be one or two members in each group.
- Leo: Michelle said there was considerable flexibility.
- Leo: Minor update: I had a small chat with Mark because we've both been assigned sustainability, natural resources, water, and energy. We agreed we would sit down next week and discuss how we're going to pull this together.

Agenda Item #5: Adjourn

Motion

Mike: I'd like to make a motion to adjourn

Passed unanimously