

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Nashua River Watershed Association

**Attendees:**

Commissioners: Mike Roberts, Chris Christie, Leo Laverdure, Chase Duffy

Commissioners absent: Carl Canner, Richard Hewitt, Steve Webber, Carl Flowers

**Minutes taken by:** Stephanie Strickland

**Agenda:**

- 1. State Open Meeting Law**
- 2. Report from working group**
- 3. For your information**

**Agenda Item #1: State Open Meeting Law**

**Discussion**

- Mike: First item on our agenda is how we're going to respond to the open meeting law. Leo, could we have a footer on the google group's site explaining that we're subject to the open meeting law?
- Leo: We can send out something to the group. It's possible to add a note to emails.
- Chase: I think you should send out an email to the selectmen saying we want to have someone sent to explain the state open meeting law.
- Mike: We need to note that we intend to comply fully with the states open meeting law and will monitor our website.
- Chase: How do we shut off the people who participate?
- Mike: We don't shut them off.

**Action**

- **Action Item: Mike to sit down with Mark Haddad about the Open Meeting Law by March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Agenda Item #2: Report from working group**

**Discussion**

- (Leo passes out drafts of invitations for sustainability café's)
- Leo: We will have three open café's that the public is welcome to and general invites will be sent out.
- Chase: I would like to ask who these conversations are with in the beginning of the invitation.
- Mike: What would you like it to say Chase?
- Chase: Conversations with town groups.

- Mike: We also need a transition in the second paragraph because it doesn't make sense the way it is.
- Chase: Should we say, to host what we call a sustainability café?
- Leo: Well it's already in quotes.
- Chase: It's such a wild idea to some people that I think it should be explained.
- Mike: I can see people asking what that is.
- Leo: Are you suggesting that we drop the name?
- Chase: No, only that we explain it. It could say, "Sustainability café," a conversation among your members. Also, what is this stuff in italics and why did we drop it down to forty years?
- Leo: 2050 is the planning horizon and mid century. I can put the final copies of the invitation out because they're the result of the meeting. I guess we can't have the members that weren't present comment on it though.
- Chase: Exactly.
- Mike: Do you think an hour is going to be long enough for the sustainability café's?
- Chase: No, I would say an hour or two.
- Mike: One thing Leo is we're going to have to customize each of these depending on where they're going.
- Leo: Yes, and we're running late because they need to go out soon. Groton Public has decided not to host a sustainability café but to support the public café's.
- Chase: I wouldn't have the evening café at the library.
- Leo: We intend to have one evening meeting but it shouldn't be a problem because it won't go longer than an hour and forty five minutes.
- Chase: Will there be refreshments?
- Leo: Oh, yes.
- Leo: I'm concerned about the start date.
- Mike: I wouldn't be opposed to delaying the start date.
- Leo: The last meeting doesn't have to be on Earth Day.
- Chase: I think it will all come together.
- Leo: I did have one question. Who should be put down on the bottom of the invitation?
- Mike: I would call it the sustainability event steering committee.
- Chase: I think the sustainability quote at the top should be smaller and indented.
- Leo: Bring it down to 10 point?
- Chase: Well it depends. I think it's too dark as well. There are also too many fonts.
- Leo: I'll change it and do the same size and font as the "think long-term, act now."

### **Agenda Item #3: For your information**

#### **Discussion**

- (Leo passes out impacts and vulnerabilities sheet to group. Note: see attached page)

- Leo: I think we, as the sustainability committee, should look at this.
- Mike: These are local impacts and vulnerabilities from what?
- Leo: This is all about energy and climate. The money and energy go together.
- Chris: I think energy will be separate, even though they are interrelated. We will have financial problems before we have energy problems.
- Leo: What if we have less oil? These are likely impacts and we can discuss how likely. This brings me to the book *Future Scenarios* and the essence comes in chapter 4. So there is a basic graph of metric tons of oil per capita and it goes until 2050, the year in which we're looking to. We're at the beginning of the energy decline.
- Chris: In places like India and China the energy is going to incline per capita.
- Leo: We're going from an incline to a plateau and then we're going to start to decline which leads to more and more people doing less. He's saying how bad is it going to be? How fast will climate change and oil decline? There are four scenarios, depending on how fast things change.
- Leo: Vision 2050. I sent this around in everyone's email. They have very useful graphs in here. This is what a bunch of companies are pushing. What I believe is this is the best possible green tech future.
- Chris: The biggest challenge is getting politicians in Washington D.C. to do something.
- Leo: This deserves to be read as one of the happiest possible outcomes.
- Note: It's recommended that commissioners read at least the summary.
- Mike: The sustainability commission has to translate information to something the public understands. This could be done in our sustainability café's as long as it doesn't stray from the three legs of the stool.
- Leo: I just want to point out that in this (vision 2050) they list things like our three legged stool, but instead they have eight.
- Chase: It's too technical and unrealistic.
- Leo: It's the best possible case, which is why I think it's important to read.
- Leo: The difference now is that people can see how people from other societies are living. We're at a point where it's clear our system is broken and now people are starting to get angry.

### **Action**

- **Action Item: For all commissioners to review impacts and vulnerabilities and come prepared to discuss them next meeting.**