

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23rd, 2010

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association

Attendees:

Commissioners: Leo Laverdure, Chris Christie, Richard Hewitt, Chase Duffy, Carl Flowers, Carl Canner

Liaisons: Mark Archambault, David Gordon

Commissioners absent: Mike Roberts, Steve Webber

Minutes taken by: Stephanie Strickland

Agenda:

1. Sustainability Café Update
2. Blind Spot Film
3. Blind Spot Discussion

Agenda Item #1: Sustainability Café Update

Discussion

- Leo: We had another meeting and the likely date is May 3rd at the Country Club. There will still be multiple venues. We were supposed to be on television to talk about the café's this Thursday but it's been set back several weeks.
- Chase: I have a meeting next week and I wanted to go over the questions.
- Leo: I don't see how we'll have time to go over the questions and watch this movie.
- Richard: Well as long as we can see the questions and think about them. Are we there to state the sustainability's point of view, and if so what are those points of view?
- Leo: We may not have a point of view. What group are we talking about?
- Chase: Community services. It's a small group.
- Leo: Community services aren't working on their stuff until September, so you have some time.
- Carl F: Can you put questions on the web? If they're just to be considered and not answered.
- Leo: I specifically asked this question and found it was permitted. Results of the meeting and agenda items can be put online.

Agenda Item #2: Blind Spot Film

Agenda Item #3: Blind Spot Discussion

Discussion

- Carl F: One of the things I thought was interesting was the carbon dioxide and cutting down the trees. I don't know if anyone knows this but young trees produce more oxygen than older trees.
- Leo: The long view says what is your steady state situation? The initial decision to use any forest is a massive release of carbon dioxide.
- Chase: People need to stop driving so fast and need to stop eating so much. Why are we driving all the way to dump our trash? Why doesn't the town pick up our trash? Simple things like that make a difference.
- Leo: Most of us don't see the danger. Most of us are just starting to feel it in our pocket books.
- Chris: Most people don't have the time to even think about it, and their manipulated.
- Chase: I don't see how people can get together and concisely decide on nothing.
- Leo: Carl, what did you think of the movie?
- Carl C: I think it was apocalyptic. It's going to take the government stepping in to get through to people.
- Mark: I think it did a brilliant job of connecting all these things. The encouraging thing is groups like us. More people are realizing we need to do something, at least on the local level. Then maybe the government will notice these local groups and wake up. Our economy requires perpetual growth.
- Richard: I thought it was a good statement of all the problems. It didn't offer many solutions. One of the big ones is population control.
- Carl F: One of the things I thought was interesting is when I was a child my mom stayed at home and my dad worked, then there was a time where both parents work, and now even the children have to work to help their family.
- Leo: It's not that we're running out of oil, it's that we're running out of affordable oil.
- Chris: In England the gas is more expensive and it makes people use public transportation, and they are much more careful about using gas.
- Carl F: I know a kid who wanted to farm and is about to graduate with a bachelor's degree in forestry and is 50-60,000 dollars in debt. Are the tradesmen going to be the one's that are going to be ahead? They won't be in debt like the college graduates.
- Leo: How fast and how hard will it hit? I think pretty soon. We're starting to pay attention now. The market solution is keep rising prices until people stop buying.
- Leo: I would like to leave it with this question: If this is the global context then what does it mean for us? I think we become more self-sufficient.
- Carl F: I think communication needs to be more integrated. I don't think we do this too well in town.
- Leo: We need to inform ourselves with the facts. I think on average we need to consume less.
- Richard: The majority of people have a long commute and what will they do if they can't afford to drive to work?
- Leo: There are solutions to transform a bedroom community.

- Carl C.: I have one issue with this movie which is that they didn't include species preservation and it's something the master plan needs to address. One of the biggest issues is habitat depletion.