

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2011

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association

Attendees:

Commissioners: Mike Roberts, Chris Christie, Maria Harrs, Carl Canner, Carl Flowers, Leo Laverdure

Commissioners absent: Chase Duffy

Guest: Lisa Wiesner, John Wiesner

Minutes taken by: Stephanie Strickland

Agenda:

1. Discuss Carl Canner's Question
2. Discuss Master Plan Participation
3. Whither the Sustainability Commission?
4. Continue Planning 2010/2011 Action Activities
5. Adjourn

Discussion:

- Mike: Because of the Master Plan, people are worn out and aren't attending meetings. This affects us because we haven't finished with the café results. At our next meeting lets really bare down and do the data analysis.
- Leo: The feedback we got was fairly complete and what we decided was we need to vote.
- Mike: We need to push this as far as we can because of everyone who put in so much thought and work.
- Mike to Leo: Could you write up a paragraph on the next steps we have to make?
- Leo: Should we have a recommendation of the sustainability committee for the Master Plan meeting?
- Chris: Another alternative is we could all gather information and forward their recommendation to their groups.
- Mike: Most of the groups have been wrapped up though. I would like to talk to Michelle and ask how the sustainability group can contribute.
- Leo: We could vote, rank high, medium, and low before the meeting on the 12th.
- Mike: I think I should talk to Michelle and see if there is still time to make an input.
- Maria: What does it currently say about sustainability?
- Mike: First there was going to be a section dedicated to sustainability but then it was decided it should be discussed throughout.
- Maria: I see Groton turning into another Westford or Acton if we don't get sustainability into everyone's houses. We need to model our system into the ones like the towns who are currently succeeding.

- Mike: Once this Master Plan is in completion the next step is implementation. The next part is deciding what step the sustainability commission needs to take next.
- Leo: Joe Romm has been in government positions before. He has collected political scientific information about climate. He wrote a list on the top ten most important non-news stories that should have made the news.
- Mike: The basis of having this as part of the agenda is reflected by Carl's question. Should one of our tasks be to be a clearing house, and make this information known to the public?
- Lisa: In order for us to do something about this information we need to be properly informed.
- Mike: The communications subcommittee was established to do just that. Who is going to sit down and write something for the paper though?
- Lisa: The more we talk the more confused we are. We just need to put the facts out and stop discussing them.
- Chris: One of our tasks is to find legitimate resources and then publicize them. We don't want to put out junk that people will discard.
- Lisa: I think this commission has the authority and people will trust your information.
- Mike: You want to make sure the information is credible so as to not risk our credibility.
- Maria: Social networking is huge now and we could have something like that.
- Mike: Who has the time to do this though?
- Carl: We could come up with a news letter and print it with the electric bills.
- Lisa: If people know what's happening with the world they will make connections and make changes.
- Mike: I watched a presentation by an elder Eskimo from Greenland. There has been a 50% reduction of ice pack on the coast. We need to be able to translate this information to people.
- Chris: Sustainability will always be an issue. We are having a water crisis but there will always be a crisis. We should focus on getting legitimate information out to people.
- Carl F: We have to be careful of cause and effect because some of the papers are already struggling.
- Maria: We need to reach out to people who want to be sustainable. We need to reach out to people through Facebook, Twitter, and schools.
- Leo: There is such an enormous amount of legitimate information that we couldn't possibly review it all. Many things are predictions and can change. Relatively small amounts of people in town want to discuss this information. It is a lot of work to have a column weekly or monthly. Education does have to be a primary thing. The commission should work to see sustainability as strong in the Master Plan as possible.
- Carl C.: Perhaps we should ask selectmen about these issues because they can be controversial. We should broaden the conversation in town before we begin writing articles in the paper.

- Mike: Why doesn't the sustainability commission have a Facebook page and let people write what they want to write about?
- Lisa: We are paralyzed by fear of backlash. No matter what we do will have backlash and we need to go ahead and let people know the facts about sustainability. We don't have time to hear what everyone's going to say. We can't be afraid of consequences.
- Carl F: We need to look at our own habits and see where we can modify.
- Lisa: People will take stock in something that represents reality.
- Leo: The charge of the commission is to represent long term views.
- Chris: Education can not only be provided by schools but by other people.
- Leo: We are entering the age of conservatism. We need to speak to the long term.
- Lisa: I think we should have a town farm that could grow for schools and other things.
- Mike: We did have a town farm at one point.
- Carl F: Why would I keep a farm if there was a town farm?
- Mike: I would like to make a motion to set up a Facebook page for the commission.
- Leo: We need to look at the legal constrictions though.
- Mike: This is what we need to look into for next meeting.

Action

- **Action Item: Mike to talk to Mark Haddad about legal constrictions of a Facebook page.**