



TOWN OF HUDSON

Sustainability Committee



Linda Kipnes, Chairman

Ted Luszey, Selectmen Liaison

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Sustainability Committee Minutes 28 December 2015

1. Call to order by Linda Kipnes at 7:00pm
2. Attendance
 - a. Members: Debbie Putnam, Linda Kipnes, Rob Cooper, Margaret Femia, Lisza Elliot
 - b. Alternates: Kathleen Meighan, Cheryl Freed
 - c. Excused Absences: Leo Bernard
 - d. Unexcused Absences: Mike Tranfaglia
3. Public Input: None
4. Minutes from November 23, 2015 meeting not sent out. Will be sent out prior to January 25, 2016 meeting.
5. Reports:
 - Tonnage report came in and we are at 27%. Our goal is to get back up to 30%.
 - Send budget requests to Donna Graham and copied to Linda Kipnes.
 - Next cleanup day is January 30, 2016.
 - Landfill passes: will need new passes for 2016
 - Yard and Hazardous waste are closed for the winter. They will reopen in the Spring (April or May)
 - Cheryl spoke to HLN about her resurrecting her column. She will write an article and Debbie asked for the article to include a notice about the BOS vote passing RSA 7262.
 - RSA 7262 stipulates that Solar installations will not be included when doing property assessments. The vote was 4-1 in favor of the RSA.
 - a. A concern had been raised that the vote might be overturned because it may be a legal requirement to have the townspeople vote. However, because our selectmen are elected, this concern is not valid.
 - b. There are almost 100 towns in NH that have adopted similar legislation
 - Debbie keeps up with the Green Area News but there was no information to bring to the committee.
 - Energy Report: None
6. Old Business:
 - Earth Day and Spring Roadside Cleanup. By the January meeting there should be ideas to consider. The plan will include proposed school involvement and dates.
 - a. Tyngsboro sponsors and Earth Day and promotes it in the town by distributing a packet to interested residents. Lisza will look into it.
 - b. Margaret suggested including vehicle trash bags. We have some budget that can be used for this item. Linda said we could make it available for the first 100 residents (or so). Linda will follow this up and see if the bags could be branded also.

- c. Donna: husband Craig is involved with Lego First. One of the teams gave out pens B2P – Bottles to Pens. Made from recycled material and is recyclable. Donna will check to see if we can get these pens at a discount since we're non-profit.
 - i. Linda: we might be able to make them available for town employees also.
- Budget Committee: there is a public hearing on January 11th. Usually uneventful. One of the selectmen had questioned our budget because we no longer do the compost bins. That selectman commented that, because our focus is now on energy, encouraging composting may not be applicable.
- Solar Information Night held on December 9th at Rogers Library. There were 25-30 people in attendance. It was successful and there was a lot of interest and participation.
 - a. Success partly due to our opening this information session up to neighboring towns and not just limiting it to Hudson.
 - b. Debbie sent out the slide deck to all who registered
 - c. Planning another presentation. Debbie offered that the same speaker will be available in January and February. She suggested the end of January, beginning of February when people start to think about spring.
 - d. For the second meeting, we had talked about it being more focused on Hudson. We may be able to find it out for other towns; they're probably similar. Second meeting will focus on permits, inspections, zoning laws and other town-specific information that residents will need to know if they move ahead with getting solar. The first 10 minutes can be a general overview of how solar works.
 - e. We will hold the next solar meeting at Hills Memorial Library so that it can be taped. We will ask the HCTV committee to provide someone to do the taping and/or broadcasting
 - f. Would like to have one of the building inspectors come to the meeting. That person would have the option to go first. The meeting will begin at 7pm.
 - i. Linda will contact the head of the building inspecting department
 - g. Linda would like to have one of the Alvirne students do the taping/broadcasting.
 - h. Will not schedule for the third week in February because Hills is taken for that Wednesday time slot.
- Recycle/Reuse/Reduce Information Sheet
 - a. Debbie provided a rough draft for the committee to review
 - b. Via email, Mike T wanted the information sheet to recycle plastic store bags by bringing them to Hannaford; these cannot be put in the recycle bins
 - c. Will add Goodwill, Savers
 - i. With all stores, we will list phone numbers and web sites so that the stores can be contacted directly on what items they take
 - ii. Add the ReStore on Amherst Street. They don't take paint, clothing, or fabrics. They will take light fixtures, construction materials, doors, windows, furniture, cabinets, working appliances.
 - d. Hudson True Value will take propane tanks that have aged-out. They might not take an old tank if you don't buy a new one. Friend Lumber may be another option. Old propane tanks cannot go to the landfill or metal recycling. Hazardous waste may take them; Lisza will check with Kevin.

- e. Fluorescents. Who takes them? Seems that the highway garage doesn't take anything with mercury anymore. The Nashua hazardous waste organization will take them. There is no longer a mercury reclamation station in town.
 - i. It's possible that HomeDepot will take them
- f. Once information sheet is complete, it will be made available: at town offices, on web site for download
- g. Goal is to have the sheet updated annually

- Poster / slogan contest

- a. Will make part of Earth Day / Roadside Cleanup
- b. Needs to be in schools by early February
- c. Liza will contact the persons she knows at the elementary schools. She will have information and feedback for January meeting
- d. We may make new banners using the slogans from the contest
- e. Kathleen suggested that we can have winning posters/slogans printed on reusable bags sold by Hannaford
- f. Margaret pointed out that the emphasis should be on energy.
- g. Liza suggested that we can encourage the schools to do their own poster contests
- h. Cheryl suggested that we may want segment the contest into age groups. This was not agreed to because it would add a lot of complexity.
- i. Linda suggested that we can show the artwork on cable television
- j. Rob suggested that winning artwork/slogans can be published on our Facebook page also

- Reviewed updated membership list

- a. Updated information on the origin of the recycle committee, the energy committee and the combining of the two

7. New Business:

- Solarize presentation. Refer to the above

- Solar Up / Solarize Campaign

- a. We need to get other citizen participation because it involves picking a vendor.
- b. Description: you offer to residents the chance to install solar. The committee chooses an installer who will offer a progressive discount. The coverage area can extend to surrounding towns.
- c. We can get involved as individuals but not as Sustainability Committee Members.
- d. Since this is not a town approved project, no town approval is needed. If there are individuals who are considering solar, we can help them get started.
- e. There are solar installers that are willing to deal with non-town-sanctioned committees because it can be lucrative for them.
- f. The main hurdle will be publicity.

- Distributing Committee Information
 - a. Cheryl: Will Committee have presence at the town meeting or school committee meeting. Will someone do that? Purpose will be to distribute information.
 - b. Donna: most of our literature is on recycling. We need more energy-focused information.
- Information Sheet Title
 - a. Agreed to title, **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
 - b. Donna will have sheet ready for final review on January meeting. Will be sent out for review prior to meeting
- Upcoming Primary
 - a. The primary is on February 9th. If they are expecting a large turnout, we may not be allowed to have a table due to space reasons.
 - b. Linda will ask Paul if we can have a table. Leo said there may be items at the highway garage.

8. Final Comments:

- a. Lisza: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to getting April project off the ground.
- b. Margaret: without the snow, the litter looks bad. Help cleanup the town.
- c. Kathleen: none
- d. Cheryl: Looking forward to energy and recycling work.
- e. Donna: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The first recycling day after Christmas, you can cut up cardboard and stack them near the bin.
- f. You can clean out paper so that it is in a paper bag and placed on cord board stack.
- g. Linda: Happy New year. Lets make 2016 an energy and recycling year. Don't throw things out of your car. This is our town. It's a nice town. Hang onto your garbage and throw it in your own trash, please.
For people with action items, mail out findings when you get them.

9. Next meeting is Monday January 25th

10. Adjourned at 8:21pm