

Sustainability Advisory Committee

The Sustainability Advisory Committee aims to increase energy efficiency, recycling, and proper waste disposal throughout the town of Hudson, New Hampshire. We promote sustainability best practices in our community through community outreach and public events. We advocate for the implementation of green policies, practices, and technologies to ensure a more sustainable town. Final directive for any initiatives will be through the authority of the Board of Selectmen.

BACKGROUND

Previously the Recycling/Energy Committee. When? What BOS meeting?

Same for Sustainability Committee. When? What BOS Meeting?

Do you talk about Hudson Power somewhere in here?

Now Sustainability Advisory Committee. When? What BOS Meeting and why?

CHARGE by BOS

Research this for a specific charge? Date?

OR Reset with this New Charter

PURPOSE

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is dedicated to fostering a sustainable and resilient future for our town by promoting environmental stewardship. Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, the committee seeks to inspire and support initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all residents while preserving natural resources for future generations. Among our advising responsibilities we will collaborate to develop and recommend policies, programs, and practices that reduce environmental impact and make sense for the community. This will be done through research borne through community engagement and education on sustainability issues. We will work local organizations, businesses, and residents on augmenting sustainable solutions that are feasible and respective of the public interest at large. This is best accomplished through open communication and encouraging the integration of sustainability principles into all aspects of town planning and operations. Practices thereof may include promoting energy conservation and efficiency resulting in cost savings to the Town.

In general, the committee will:

- Research and propose actionable strategies to meet sustainability objectives.
- Collaborate with town departments to integrate sustainable practices into municipal operations.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of sustainability initiatives and recommend adjustments as needed.
- Engage with residents to gather input and build community support for sustainability efforts.
- Serve as a resource for sustainability education and information.

RIGHT TO KNOW

All activities and business conducted under the purview of the Sustainability Advisory Committee are subject to NH RSA 91-A, Right to Know. All meetings of the committee must have proper notice and be open to the public. Members may not discuss any business of the committee in person or by email except within the scope of a regular meeting.

MEMBERS

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (formerly called the Recycling/Energy Committee) is a seven-member committee with three alternates. There is one Selectman liaison and the Public Works Director as an ex-officio member, pursuant to Hudson Board of Selectmen vote on 8/25/15. Members are residents of Hudson who volunteer to participate on the Committee. They are interviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms, normally set to expire on April 30 of the third year. At the end of a term, members may apply to the Board of Selectmen to be re-appointed to the Committee. If there is a vacancy on the Committee because a member resigns or moves, it is advertised and filled by the Board of Selectmen to end on April 30 of the current term, or to fill the term of the absent member.

There are three officers of the Committee: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman will create an agenda for each meeting and have it posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting; will gather information for items on the agenda and provide it to the committee members; will preside over committee meetings; and will be the liaison between committee members and Town Staff and Selectmen. The Chairman will submit the Annual Report of the committee to the Board of Selectmen for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Town.

The Vice-Chairman will perform the duties of the chairman when the chairman is unable to do so; and will perform any other duties requested by the chairman or by the committee.

The Secretary will take minutes at the meetings; will write the minutes and present them to the members a minimum of one week prior to the next meeting; and will make any corrections noted at the meeting. The final minutes will be emailed to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen for filing. The final version will be made available to the public as soon as practicable through hudsonnh.gov, the official website for the town of Hudson.

A member of the committee may propose a new officership and its responsibilities, all of which must be approved by vote by a quorum of committee members.

QUORUM and VOTING

A majority of the regular members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At any meeting, if a regular member is absent, an Alternate may be seated in his/her place and is then included when defining a quorum and when votes are taken. Otherwise alternates participate in discussion but do not vote. At any meeting where a quorum is present, the acts of the majority of the members at such meeting shall be Acts of the Committee. Any member unable to attend a meeting shall notify an officer of the committee in advance of the meeting as soon as possible.

Meetings shall follow an abridged version of Robert's Rules of Order: Members will request permission to speak from the Chairman and will address the Committee through the Chairman. One person at a time has permission to speak and will be identified so the TV camera can focus on each speaker.

MEETINGS

Meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00PM in one of the Town Meeting Rooms. All meetings are open to the public. If the regular meeting day is a holiday or in a holiday season, the meeting may be canceled, or another date may be chosen by consensus of the members. The Town Administrators office will be notified of any changes in the meeting schedule as voted on by the members. The revised meeting dates will be posted in a timely manner on the Town Calendar.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee's mission will be best achieved by collaboration among the members characterized by mutual suggestions and open communication. Members are expected to serve as advocates for the charge, and as such, could include, but are not limited to attend public meetings speaking respectfully on any recommendation that shall be made. Members should ask questions and seek clarification to ensure they understand cumulative interests, concerns, and objectives. Deliberation and debate should be constructive and courteous with every effort made to reach consensus. Recommendations put forth shall be those which the members concur through comprehensive discussion and are accountable to the Board of Selectmen.

BUDGET

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will have a line within the Town of Hudson General Fund Budget, 01-4199-5055, in which certain expenditures will be listed that provide the necessary funds to meet the mission. At no time shall the budget be over expended moreover use thereof shall be requested in advance through the Town Administrators office. Each year the committee shall prepare a budget request with justification to the Town Administrator by September to be requested for the upcoming fiscal year.

APPOINTMENTS and SUB COMMITTEES

All appointments and/or the prospect of sub-committee initiatives shall be brought to the Board of Selectmen for consideration and confirmation. It shall be the directive of the Chair to deliver a memorandum thereof clearly outlining the need and desire for such a request.

REPORTING

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will make arrangements to present to the Board of Selectmen on a yearly basis to review all activities, accomplishments, and set future goals. Scheduling will be done through the Town Administrators office.