

**Sustainability Committee**  
**December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Nancy Dowey, Brittany Overton, Lauren Therriault, Jamie Bemis, Herb D'Arcy, Donna Worthen, Henry Herndon, and Jan Metcalf.

Meeting called to order by Nancy at 6:34pm

Herb made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Donna. Approved by all.

Henry from Clean Energy NH introduced his organization (501c3). Work with business communities (solar, wind, clean heat) work with business and industry. Second leg is with policy and getting clean energy policies in place. Third leg, is to help out sustainability committees and towns, give resources to communities and educate people. We're trying to balance our role between neutral educators and helping get policies made. Hope we can all be on the same page and share information. Cleanenergynh.org has information about policies.

Community power: communities can bulk buy the electricity for their members and businesses. Eversource or company that owns poles and provides electricity still owns those, just gives the community a choice in how they get the power. No NH towns have this yet but 2021. Lebanon, Hannover, Nashua, Cheshire County are starting.

Henry will present January 25th about Community Power. Henry will write a snippet for us to use to get people to come to the event. "Democratize, Decarbonize, the economy. Cost savings, renewable, local control." Figure out the hook to get people to come. Henry left the meeting at 6:51.

Recycling Committee Subreport: Herb is getting a draft copy of the Warrant article when it's available. It's all moving forward and Nik feels confident he has Selectboard support. He will let us know when it's going to be reviewed at the next Selectboard meeting.

Communication: RSA-91-a: Right to Know Law- we cannot have a quorum conversation that is not posted, includes e-mail communication. Nik has said the best thing to do is make a phone call about the matter. Share our phone numbers so we can call each other. 3 of us can communicate outside of meetings so they can email but anymore than 3 is not okay. Information can be sent but it can't turn into a dialogue. Just don't reply to anything, and call instead of email. Everyone will add phone numbers to a page on the Sustainability Folder on Google Doc. <https://www.nh.gov/osi/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2015/documents/right-to-know-law-session-materials.pdf>

Buy Nothing Group: going well and people are joining.

Newsletter: Make a subgroup to email it to for feedback. Lauren and Nancy will be on that subgroup for edits and adding things. Everyone can send Jamie content to add. Have had some people sign up- 42 contacts.

Newfound Lake Life: by Dawna- get in touch with her about sharing information. Share events for 2021.

Zero Waste Guide: come up with a few sentences to say what it is, what we allow. Promote it and put it out there. Criteria for businesses to submit to be on. Subgroup

Letter for Waste Management USDA Grant: Jan talked to Paige Wilson, she would like a letter for support from our committee for a grant she's applying for. Nik said all communication should go through him since we're an official body of selectboard.

Elsa has resigned but is happy to help with contacts at the high school. We will miss her.

Charging Stations: Britt has been busy but is working on it slowly. Jan and Lauren will be point people to help Britt stay on track.

Composting: Nancy has been researching it. NRRA has a program where the town buys backyard composters at a discounted rate and then resell them to community members. Hardware store grant? Maybe not? VT is requiring composting. Look into Vermont Composting Company.

Earth Day: Lauren can pair with BES to do an activity on Earth Day with high schoolers? Clean up, adopt a section of road. Herb said people should be trained before they pick up trash. Volunteers are okay to do it, but agencies should not because of the risk of being sued or help liable. Some sort of educational component for kids in the area. Pollinator Pathways. "Before I Die" Wall. <https://beforeidieproject.com/walls> "In 2021 What's my sustainable goal?" Make it into a mural. By the Purple Pit. AOC sustainable future video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uTH0iprVQ>

Herb left to eat dinner.

Janet will email Nik about the mural idea. Donna said we could tell people we're picking up trash and tagging on the facebook group with a picture frame or hashtag.

Garden Club and Community Garden. Jan and Donna are on the Decorating committee but not on the garden club. Jane White is president of Pasquaney Garden Club. <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/> Sign up for the pathway and educate people about it.

January Events: Regenerative Reads- 21st and Film Screening- 14th. Hosting virtual screening. Confirmation at 6:30 for screening the movie. Britt will have it on the MSL newsletter. Letting us know how much of the book to read for us to advertise.

Community Gardens: Britt has reached out to people to talk about getting this going again. January 21st at 3 pm we'll meet and talk about it, Zoom.

Energy Committee will come to the next meeting on January 11th at 6:30

Resources, events, articles, updates send to Jamie for the newsletter.

Motion to adjourn made by Janet seconded by Jamie. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

**Action Items:**

- Lauren Britt and Jamie will write a criteria for Zero Waste Guide so it's ready to share.
- Britt share info about car charging stations with Lauren and Jan.
- Jan will email Nik about the mural.