

Energy and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2019

Present: Don Sanders, Bill Turner, Toni Weinstein, Jess Waters, Andy DeMeo

Excused: Carol Ramsay, Peter Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Approval of Minutes

Bill Turner made a motion to approve the May 7 meeting minutes. Don Sanders seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the minutes.

Weed Control

Steam Update - Sharon Seavy from Allied Equipment came to do a demo on the steam machine. Don took photos. It took 3 days for the foliage to brown up and after 5 days, 2 dandelions have emerged. Don will continue to monitor and document.

The unit is low pressure steam. 250 degrees. The unit has a 100 foot reel. Looks similar to a pressure washer. Pricing 18-19K or 22-23K depending on size and options.

One of the benefits is that weather isn't really a factor. Other uses possible for the machines include sanitizing, graffiti removal, cleaning gum. Some communities have discussed selling advertising on the back of it.

Liability is a concern and something to talk to Dover about.

Jess will reach out to Dover to discuss their program.

Other options: Don has experimented with Weed B Gone, which is chelated iron - used it at home and has had some success.

The committee discussed a Weed Control recommendation to the Town Council. Toni will forward a document to use as a starting point.

Items to consider include:

- Discontinuing weed control is one option. Engage public on this through a survey. Normalizing an alternative to weed control is something to consider.
- Determining if weed control has structural benefits? Andy will look into this.
- Opt out - Jess will write up info informing people about the program and how to opt out. It will be important to include make sure people know that they can't spray anything else on town property. The committee discussed putting a form on the website and Toni will talk to the Town Administrator about this.
- Posting about the spraying is a concern in town. We need to determine how that is currently done. Some ideas about how to reach people include the website, the monitor in the clerk's office, the weekly newsletter. It would also be helpful to have a list of sidewalks in town.
- We will need to include a cost analysis.

Selecting Chair and Vice Chair

Bill nominated Toni Weinstein to serve as chair.

Don Sanders seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

Don nominated Peter Nelson to serve as Vice Chair.

Bill seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

Peter was not at the meeting to accept the nomination, so Toni will check with Peter to see if he accepts the nomination as Vice Chair.

Committee Goals discussion

The following were discussed as goals for the committee:

1. EV Charging stations: Possible locations for stations include Municipal lot, Schanda Park, Rec center, Town Hall, Coffee Shack lot. Bring someone in to help us determine what the needs are Jess will reach out to Jess Wilcox at DES for more info including what is needed for infrastructure. Looking into establishing EV requirements for future building.
2. Develop Carbon and Nitrogen Inventory - Andy will do research on options to conduct via UNH. Completing inventories will help us establish quantifiable goals moving forward.
3. Reducing Single Use plastics - Plastic bag ban was discussed. How else can we reduce plastics in town? Working with local businesses.
4. Solar - How can we help Newmarket reduce use of fossil fuels/increase renewables. Setting guidelines for usage is one idea.
5. Shoreline development- Jess works with Great Bay National Estuarine Reserve and works to develop Living Shorelines.
6. Education: Working to educate community to help change behaviors and/or perceptions. "Did You Know" series for the newsletter., Info about composting for new residents.

Follow Up

Jess: Connect with Dover about steam program. Write up info about Opt-out process.

Research what is needed for infrastructure for EV stations

Andy: Research structural benefits of weed control. Look into how to complete carbon and nitrogen inventory.

Don: Monitor and document weed growth from steam demo.

Toni: send recommendation document to committee members. Talk to TA about getting info on website for opt out. Get list of sidewalks.

Minutes submitted by Toni Weinstein