

Lee, NH Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes -APPROVED
June 14, 2016 at 1:00PM
Lee Public Safety Complex

Present: Chuck Cox, Dean Rubine, Paul Gasowski
Absent: Leslie Adams, Brian Giles, Matt Rowell

I. Call to Order at 1:22 PM by Paul Gasowski

II. Preliminary Actions

- A. Introductions: None
- B. Approval of Agenda- No changes. Approved.
- C. Minutes: Minutes approved from 5/17/16.
- D. Correspondence: Paul G. announced that Lee Energy Committee received an appropriation(\$1500) from the Select Board to update Energy Report and Audits. Clay Mitchell will be doing the work. Chuck C. shared that Steve Curwood (NPR host of “Living on Earth”) will be speaking at the Dover Friends Meeting House on Monday, June 20th at 7:00PM.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Work on Vision/Mission Statements:
Committee reviewed and discussed revised Vision Statements from Leslie A., Brian G., Dean R. and Matt R. Please see attached. After some discussion, it was decided to assemble the following ‘revised draft’ from several of the vision statements:

We envision a sustainable Lee that is thriving in the present and that can continue to thrive long into the future. A sustainable Lee has a vibrant ecological, social and economic health over the long term. A thriving citizenry is economically secure, with sufficient economic, food, energy and human resources to live well and to freely pursue their goals.

Citizen education, open space preservation, smart growth initiatives, recycling and waste reduction programs, local food promotion, community building, energy efficiency and green energy promotion, green building programs, affordable housing, and climate change initiatives are just a few of the ways a town can address its sustainable future.

V. New Business

A. The committee welcomed Matt Rowell as our newest member. Matt is currently serving a tour in the U.S. Navy and will return to Lee in October. In the meantime, he will contribute to the committee's ongoing work. Welcome, Matt.

B. The committee discussed switching to evening meeting times. The second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM was selected as trial meeting date.

VII. Public Comments:

None

VIII. Closing Actions:

A. Next Meeting: July 13, 2016 at 7:00PM ...Lee Public Safety Complex

B. Agenda Planning: Focus on completing 'Vision Statement' and drafting our 'Mission Statement'.

IX. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Submitted by plg 6/20/16.

Attachments:

1. Brian Giles:

Town of Lee
Sustainability Committee

Proposed Vision Statement

A Community, the Town of Lee, that is guided in all decisions, whether by private citizens or elected officials, by a "sustainable ethic" in pursuing the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. This ethic is based on the experience and wisdom of the past, the essential needs of the present, and the impact on future generations. This ethics involves consideration and balance of three competing resources: human/social, natural/ecological, and financial/economic.

Proposed Mission Statement

The mission of the Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee is to foster an ethic or culture of sustainability among the citizens of Lee through education, outreach, advocacy, and action. The focus of sustainability will be guided by the following principles:

- That citizens are the stewards of the land, the water, and the air and have an obligation to pass on this trust to future generations in better shape than received.
- That citizens of the Town are an integral component of the natural world and must accommodate the life-essential needs of other creatures and life forms that share our environment.
- That the Town is not an island unto itself and must respect the level of interdependency and the mutual needs, present and future, of neighboring communities and the region.
- That all resources must be used in a renewable fashion such that there is no permanent degradation or exhaustion.
- That pursuit of a “sustainable ethic” will lead to improvement in the quality of living for its citizens.
- That sustainability fosters a degree of resiliency necessary to navigate the accelerating changes confronted by the community in the future.

B.A.Giles, 06/14/2016

Matt Rowell:

June 12, 2016

Lee Sustainability Committee

Matthew Rowell

Vision Statement:

My vision for the Lee Sustainability Committee is that it should find, recommend, and enact ways for the town to achieve a net positive flow of energy. Energy is broadly interpreted to include money, food, fuel, jobs, natural resources, social capital, knowledge, shelter, health and more. The committee must facilitate the citizens and town organizations in generating sources of energy, while minimizing consumption from external sources.

Initial Recommendations:

- Committee Mechanics:
 - I recommend that the committee spend very little time in deciding on the initial vision/mission statement and allow itself the flexibility to mold it

over time. I suspect this suggestion is counter to some people's core philosophy so I'll add that in my experience the mission statement has done little to guide true action and can conceivably hamper evolution. The bottom line is that I feel time can be better spend on an action plan than debating the semantics of wording in a mission statement.

- The committee itself should seek sustainability. This has potential to be a fun group thought experiment, but two things that come to my mind are:
 - All age groups down to the grade school level should be represented on the committee. Forgive my assumption that the more wise generations are well represented, so this suggestion likely means that the committee would need to seek participation from the town's youth. Just as hatching chicks is the major step in flock sustainability, actively including youth in the committee would be indicative of our true commitment to sustainability. But it would serve several other purposes as well, such as:
 - The insertion of fresh ideas.
 - A requirement on us to overcome the old-white-guys-arguing-around-a-table stereotype that embodies American politics.
 - A keyway to a labor force
 - This suggestion may expose my lack of understanding of how town committees run, but I recommend that the Sustainability Committee accept no tax money. If our initiatives require funding, it should be on us to generate those funds.
- As per my vision, I see sustainability as a balance of energy flow. I think a good use of time at a committee meeting would be to generate a list of sources and a list of syncs of energy in the town. Through the generation of those lists the committee should be able to devise ways to add to, or capitalize on the list of sources, and minimize, or remove the syncs.
- For any action the committee takes, I recommend it perform a thorough study on function stacking around that action. Meaning, what else can be done with minimal additional inputs that will help us reach our sustainability goals? Or, what are the secondary and tertiary effects of our action, and how can we shape them, or capitalize on them to achieve

sustainability? The following thought experiment on the action of 'Advocating for Bike Lanes' will hopefully demonstrate my intent.

Example: Advocating for Bike Lanes.

- Lee imports all of our fuel (energy) for transportation, vehicles, and infrastructure resources. I suspect that we as citizens and as a town spend a tremendous amount of money (energy) for the construction and maintenance of this freedom of travel. This example will demonstrate how a re-appropriation of funds (energy neutral) for the addition of bike lanes to a few major roads in town may promote sustainability by reducing energy syncs and promoting energy sources.
 - Improved safety (or perception of safety) may encourage more citizens to ride recreationally or for commuting purposes.
 - Secondary effects: Healthier town, saved money (for citizens), snowballing effect getting more people involved.
 - Tertiary effect: Evolve the image of the town to attract healthy citizens
 - The increased volume of riders (or awareness) could promote mountain biking in some of Lee's forested land use sites thus continuing the snowball effect
 - Tertiary effect: safer drivers due to signage and presence of riders
 - Better cycling routes will increase the number of visitors for recreation (energy source).
 - Function Stacking: A farm tour through town to promote inflow of cyclists to sites that promote their spending of money in town (energy source).
 - Function Stacking: Hosted rides to improve the sense of community (energy source).
 - Bike routes to public transport options to key employment locations (e.g. Portsmouth, Dover, Rochester, Somersworth) will promote citizen use.

- Secondary effects include: Better health, reduced fuel imports, improved quality of life.

Other examples worthy of consideration:

- Community tool chest: Collection of residents who are willing to share tools with the community in exchange for access to other tools within the community.
- Food Coop: Collection of residents who go in on bulk purchase of bulk goods (from flour to animal feed) or who agree to purchase a particular crop grown in town.
- Initiative to encourage every family in town to grow or raise something for their own consumption (from porch tomatoes to a family milker)
- Seminar series for sustainability awareness (e.g. residential solar hot water, raising chickens, growing vegetables, planting fruit trees, ridesharing, rainwater collection, etc.)
- A website listing every product or service offered by Lee residents (food, lumber, haircuts, teeth cleaning, masonry, plowing, firewood, etc.)
- Facilitate the generation of social capital among residents (e.g. Pizza night for families with teens, Dog play date at the park, Dad's night out homebrewing event, wild plant identification walk through the woods for seniors, etc.)

Leslie Adams:

According to the United Nations' Commission on Sustainable Development (1987), sustainability refers to *"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* **A sustainable town then, aspires to design its processes to promote vibrant ecological, social and economic health over the long term.**

Citizen education, open space preservation, smart growth initiatives, recycling and waste reduction programs, local food promotion, community building, energy efficiency and green energy promotion, green building programs, affordable housing, and climate change initiatives are just a few of the ways a town can address its sustainable future. The Lee Sustainability Committee hopes to promote this in the following ways:

- by educating community members on sustainability issues and advocating for sustainable living.

- by providing residents with the information and resources necessary to make more sustainable choices in everyday living.
- by advising the town of sustainability concerns within our boundaries, and by providing creative and workable solutions that promote sustainability.
- by becoming a coordinating point/ forum for the community for questions, concerns and discussion related to sustainability.
- by involving residents of all ages in the pursuit of greater sustainability for the town of Lee.

Dean Rubine:

Proposed vision and mission, from Dean Rubine

Town of Lee, Sustainability Vision

We envision a sustainable Lee that is thriving in the present and that can continue to thrive long into the future. A thriving Lee has a citizenry that is economically successful, with sufficient food, energy and other resources to live comfortably and to freely pursue their goals. The requirement that the town continue to thrive for the long run, that is, be sustained, means that even as we are living well now, we must leave *enough* and *as good* for future denizens of Lee. This implies a sustainable food supply, a sustainable energy supply and a way of life that preserves our wonderful environment.

Lee Sustainability Committee Mission

It is the mission of the Lee Sustainability Committee to guide the town of Lee on a path toward sustainability. A primary focus will be on improving the operation of the town government itself, for example by recommending steps to reduce fossil fuel consumption and increase renewable energy consumption. It is the Committee's belief that these changes are generally common sense measures which reduce fuel use, lower costs, improve efficiency, and are thus more ecologically sound. The Committee will also consider ways that that town as a whole can be more sustainable. Among these will be efforts to educate our residents on how to incorporate sustainability considerations into their decisions and to improve their sustainability practices.

While Lee possesses substantial agricultural resources, we are in reality very dependent on the health of surrounding communities, state, region and nation. True sustainability cannot be obtained without the cooperation of our neighboring communities and beyond. The Lee Sustainability Committee will work to build these bridges with our neighbors. We will also work to improve Lee's resilience by identifying our external dependencies and planning for the possibility of their interruption.