

Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2009
5:00PM

Members Present: Mike Heavener, Mike Roy, Doug Carnrick, Sally Harwood, Elery Keene, Norm Anderson, Stu Silverstein, Jim Wood, John Joseph, Iver Lofving, Steve Erario, Cody Floyd, Jamie Nemecek, Andrew Young

Report on Progress of Committees

Transportation Committee, Jim Wood

Draft plan completed for a new Waterville-based bus system that would increase the availability of public transportation. Need to mobilize funding. Would like to educate the community about the existing services, such as bike paths and hiking trails.

Local Foods, Stu Silverstein

Completed the first community garden in Waterville. Twelve plots were allotted to members of the community to organically grow vegetables, flowers, etc. A grand opening will be held on July 12 from 2-4PM. Hope to install another garden in the South End, as well as inspire other communities.

Energy, John Joseph

Divided committee into three subcommittees: Residential Renewable Energy & Conservation, Community Wind, and Renewable Energy District. The Residential committee will establish a common base of available programs and resources, in order to increase the residential weatherization rate. The Community Wind committee will evaluate the potential of wind power in the area. The Renewable Energy District committee will evaluate the feasibility of a Community District Energy project for the area.

Education, Iver Lofving

Held Green Fest at Skowhegan High School about weatherization. Planning has begun for an Energy Education Day in October, during which the high school students will talk to people in the community about weatherization. Eventual goal is to green the curriculum in local schools.

Waste, Sally Harwood

Elery Keene and Sally Harwood have taken on the responsibility to get the committee started. Committee has met once and is currently discussing the restructuring and eventual goals such as community composting, etc.

Organizational/Finance/Communications, Norm Anderson

Three committees have been consolidated due to overlap of interests and functions. Achievement of objective goals will be more efficient under a single committee.

Committee Restructuring

Group agreed that each committee leader should be including in the Steering Committee to enhance decision-making and coordination in the group. Although only Waterville and Winslow will be represented on new Steering Committee, Mike H. suggested it was the best choice and that

Oakland/Fairfield will still be a part of the process. Agreed that each committee should complete a quarterly report, in order to reduce the amount of meeting time spent on updates.

Sustainability Coordinator

Steve has completed a job description for a sustainability coordinator. Responsibilities would include: a point of contact for anyone offering assistance to coalition, compiling best practices for committees, measuring progress through various indicators, organizing and disseminating information about Coalition, identifying partners, representing committee at government meetings and conferences, and staff support for the Steering Committee. Steve and interns will serve as interim coordinator through August 12. Funding from grants, if secured, would likely come in mid-late fall. May be beneficial to find a volunteer coordinator to bridge gap between departing interns and incoming coordinator. Will continue the discussion at next meeting.

Future meeting date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.