

**Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2009**  
**3:00PM**

Members Present: Mike Heavener, Mike Roy, Doug Carnrick, Sally Harwood, Elery Keene, Norm Anderson, Steve Erario

Members Absent: None

**Minutes**

Minutes from May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting reviewed and passed.

**Report on Transportation**

Jim Wood could not attend the meeting. We hope to get an update at the next meeting.

**Convening the Catalyst + Sustainability Coalition Group**

The group agreed that the time frame was too short and a meeting of the entire group would be inefficient at this point in time. A meeting will be established for September, ideally at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

**Waste/Recycling Committee**

Mike R briefly got in touch with Geoff Hill, who has yet to follow up with a call regarding a potential replacement team lead. Mike H talked with Winslow PW director John Giroux, who is busy for next 6 months on sewer project but interested in subsequent involvement. The group expressed interest in a central website outlining waste disposal options for area residents and businesses.

*Convening a meeting: 5:15-630PM, Date TBD*

- Mike R will convene a meeting of: David Elias, Tom Longstaff, Blanche Davidson, Mike Donihue, Ross Nasseum, Eric Brown.
- Mike H will talk with Shelly Phillips to identify someone from the Winslow schools to attend and represent the town.
- Mike R will get in touch with Oakland Selectman Dennis McLelan for representation.
- Mike R will identify Fairfield representative to meeting, as well.
- Elery and Sally agreed to help Mike R where needed.

**Local Foods Chair**

Elery contacted Stu Silverstein about being chair of the local foods group. Stu suggested that he had everything under control. He will be invited to the next Team Leaders/Steering Committee meeting. The other Local Foods project group, "linking growers to markets," disbanded due to closely aligned goals with the Barrels Market project. Follow-up needed with previous "growers-to-markets" volunteers to determine current involvement with Barrels; Barrels should be contacted to explore partnership.

**Community Garden**

12 plots have been established at North Street opposite from the emergency room at Thayer Hospital. There was remaining concern amongst some members of the committee that community gardens would take over too much space at already-limited parks around the community. The group has selected 11

plot owners, and kept 1 plot for the Coalition to grow food on. The group is currently determining policies and procedures for garden plots.

### **Newsletter/Communication**

The first bi-weekly was produced two weeks ago, following the last steering committee meeting. The next newsletter will highlight the community gardening success. The logo is still in the revision process. The website domain name was purchased – [www.sustainmidmaine.org](http://www.sustainmidmaine.org). The next Steering Committee meeting should aim to populate the existing Communications plan with content, at least for the summer term.

### **Grants**

Based on the lack of notification for the EPA Healthy Communities Grant, it is probable that this grant application has been denied.

Steve and Norm met with Efficiency Maine to discuss potential funding from the PUC and/or stimulus funds. The Efficiency Maine group is well aware of the Coalition's initiative, which they acknowledge as unique in Maine for its combination of municipal buy-in a grassroots community contributions. They think there may be funding opportunities under the "Regional Demonstration Project" criteria. There will be approx 6 grants awarded in this area from a pool of \$2,000,000. Our potential for the project is to design a flexible and transferrable model for combining locally-based municipal and community efforts. This would require some preliminary research of its applicability to community structures in the state, as well a focus on developing a local model strongly adapted to our own area's conditions. It would also require identifying potential partners in order to strengthen our grant application, e.g. the Maine Development Foundation, Cooperative Extension, and other. The RFP is due in July, with the possibility of hiring 1-2 coordinators from the fund, as well as consultants desired by the Energy Team and others. The Steering Committee agreed that this is an option to pursue. Mike R agreed to reach out to the MDF to seek a potential partnership. Dana Duran, working on a Community Sustainability Curriculum at KVCC, was identified as another potential partner.

### **Sustainability Coordinator**

Steve drafted a job description for the Sustainability Coordinator. It was agreed by the group that a coordinator position would serve numerous benefits. The group might seek to recruit a volunteer coordinator before a paid coordinator. Steve and the summer interns would act as an interim coordinator, providing feedback on what roles/responsibilities need to be met outside of the core volunteer teams. The summer interns will be ending August 12. The grant for the stimulus funds would not be dispersed until October. A plan for the interim should be established.

### **Committee Restructuring**

This discussion will be continued at the next meeting. Fairfield and Oakland Town Managers will not be part of the Steering Committee, although the four issue-oriented team leads will be. It is possible that the support committee chairs (Communication, Organizational Capacity, and Finance) as well as the current coordinators could be combined into one position, the Sustainability Coordinator(s). This would allow for representation of the Team Leads, two municipalities, and the Sustainability Coordinator(s), to maintain efficient meetings, even when other members and other consultants are invited.

### **Donations fund at Colby**

A donations fund has been established at Colby in the name of the Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition. Policies and procedures for this fund will be suggested at the next meeting.

**Reporting**

The group wants to incorporate into minutes of meeting an update on the committee progress since the prior meeting. Furthermore, the minutes should provide consistent and standardized reporting, which the committee agreed upon is a prerequisite for effective continued project implementation.

**Future meeting date**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers. The interns will be present to audit the meeting. Mike R agreed to send an invite to the following Team Leaders:

1. John Joseph, Energy
2. Stu Siverstein, Local Foods
3. Jim Wood, Transportation
4. Iver Lofving, Education