

Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2009
5:00PM

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

Report on Progress of Committees

Education, Iver Lofving and Jamie Nemecek

Planning an Energy Education day in the fall (tentatively Oct. 3). Students from area high schools will go door-to-door handing out information about weatherization, and maybe do some light weatherization. Iver will involve students from Skowhegan, and will connect with Eric Brown to involve the Fairfield schools. Jamie will contact teachers from Waterville, Winslow, and Oakland to see if they are interested in joining as well. Elery suggested the committee contacts the Chamber of Commerce to possibly implement an adult education program about sustainability for local businesses. Iver will contact possible co-chairs (Eric Brown, Linda Woods, Francis Rodrigue). Jamie recommended that the committee divide into two sub-committees: Greening Schools and Curriculum and Public Education. The Public Education sub-committee would be available to the entire coalition as a way to get information to the public through various forms of media.

Local Foods, Steve Erario

The Grand Opening of the Community Gardens is scheduled for July 12. There will be live music, brick oven pizza, and gardeners will be having short lessons about gardening. The committee is working on getting a story in the Sentinel. The committee is also researching grant opportunities to supply wood, loam, and other supplies for more gardens next summer.

Transportation Committee, Jim Wood

Next meeting is planned for July 16 at 4PM at KVCOG. At the meeting they will elect a co-chair, discuss the transit plan and strategic plan. The potential candidate for co-chair is Peter Garrett.

Energy, John Joseph

Had meeting with Dale McCormick from Maine State Housing and Tim Vrabel from Efficiency Maine. Steve will send notes from this meeting to the committee. Would like to have another meeting similar to this and invite people from planning boards, as well as local energy auditors. Subcommittee on Residential Energy may want to hold this meeting again for a larger audience. The Wind subcommittee is planning to put up anemometers in one of three locations: Colby, KVCC, and the airport. Has meetings scheduled to discuss District Energy Program. Would like to have a meeting at Colby at which the interns will explain their work with GIS systems.

Finance/Organizational/Communication, Norm Anderson

Suggested these three committees will be included in the sustainability coordinator position.

Organizational Structure

Mike Roy presented flow chart and descriptions about the flow of communication in the coalition. The basic principle was accepted, under the agreement that it might change. Discussion about where to

include the intern project, and whether to have a finance committee separate from the job of the sustainability coordinator.

Finances

Discussion on Finance Committee/fundraising task force, and financial structure of group will continue at next meeting. It was discussed that the Finance Committee would not make decisions on its own and would consult with the Steering Committee. However, the committee would find grant and donation opportunities. Doug raised the idea to link with the Chamber of Commerce. The Coalition would give a presentation in September to get Chamber to start thinking about sustainability. Doug will send an email to the committee about the cost and responsibility associated with this, as well as how this idea would fit for both groups.

Community Survey

Interns are working on a survey that will be sent to 1,000 people in the four towns. The survey includes questions that will judge the interest in the areas of sustainability. The Committee agreed that this project should be completed.

Name Change

Unless other name ideas are proposed by Thursday July 9, it is agreed that the name will be changed to Sustain Mid-Maine.

Publicity and Website

Steve would like to start publishing meeting announcements in the Community Events section of the newspaper. The website will be updated soon. It will still be connected with the City of Waterville website, but will have a new, more individual look.

Future meeting date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11 at 5:00 pm in the Information Technology room.