



TOWN OF HUDSON

Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Debra Putnam, Chair



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September 23, 2024
Buxton Meeting Room

1. **Call to Order at 7:00pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Input:** None
4. **Attendance:** Alyssa Hanley, Kate Messner, Chris Thatcher, Bob Guessferd (Selectman Liaison), Craig Putnam (alt), Karl Hubert, Deb Putnam, Jake Keller (new member), Ed Thompson.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** July 28, 2024 – Motion to approve by K. Messner as edited, seconded by K. Hubert. Motion passed unanimously. Edited Minutes to be submitted for posting on Town website.
6. **Reports:**
 - **Trash-Recycling Tonnage Report:** 22.47% (Report included in Packet)
 - **Expenditure Report:** (Report included in Packet) only one expenditure – Hudson Times \$187.00 Electrical Rate Chart as of August 1, 2024
7. **Hudson Transfer Station:** As of July 1, each residence serviced by curbside collection will be allowed to purchase up to three additional Passes at \$30.00 per pass each calendar year. (See DPW wall sign included in Packet) The next two days the Transfer Station will be open: **September 28 and October 12 - 8:00am-12:00noon** The Transfer Station is open for yard waste, metal & cardboard drop-offs 8am-12noon every Saturday- **NO** Pass is required. DPW offices are open Monday-Thursday 6:00am – 4:00pm - 2 Constitution Drive, Hudson.
8. **Hazardous Waste Collections:** The last Hazardous Waste Collection Day for the year will be October 5, 2024, 8 a.m. to Noon. **Location:** 9 Stadium Drive, Nashua. Reminders: **No Latex/Acrylic Paint, No Electronics, No Medications.** For more information please visit: www.nashuarpc.org. NOTE: Old medications can be dropped off at the Hudson Police Department. Syringes can be dropped off at local hospitals.
9. **Presentation during the July meeting: Hydro Group Net Metering Options for Hudson by Howard Plante, from Freedom Energy Logistics.** During the July meeting the members discussed- Next steps to review information present to town attorney and the BOS for consideration. Member discussion is needed as to if and how to move forward.

Discussion on this topic tabled until the Oct meeting.

10. Reports by Kate Messner:

The state's CCAP – Comprehensive Climate Action Plan was covered back in March to the committee as a preliminary climate action plan. This plan had not been updated since 2009. The new grant called the Climate Pollution Reduction Act (CPRG) has specific defined goals and deliverables. NHDES has pushed dates out on CCAP on because the EPA has pushed out deadlines and the dates for next meetings have not been set yet.

K. Messner also attended the NH Network - NH Green Environmental Summit (8/24/24). NH Network was founded in Jan 2021. Summit Attendees totaled 51, including 5 state reps. Charter is to facilitate communication among groups concerned about NH's environment and climate. Meeting topics centered around various ways to protect and preserve the environment and raise awareness on climate change. Two areas of special interest for our committee were on reducing solid waste (especially coming from outside the state) and composting methods. See attachments.

11. Holiday Lights Recycling Program –The Amherst St. Lowes will be hosting the holiday lights recycling. They will be able to advise when the bin will be put out in early October once Christmas Decorations are on display. Boxes created for last year are in Putnam garage attic. Since last year's collections were so successful, all committee members agreed that the program should be continued into this year. C. Thatcher will reach out to the Scouts to determine if they want to get involved again and those in charge at the Senior Center. Advertising will be forthcoming.

12. Upcoming Electronics Recycling event:

The Hudson Litchfield Rotary Club and the environment is asking for your help by donating your useless electronics, such as computers, cell phones, and ACs, to Alvirne High School parking lot **on October 19**, 8-12 noon.

With the funds raised, Rotary gives Scholarships, helps the food pantry, provides water sanitation worldwide, provides polio vaccines, and supports many local and international projects.

At the Hudson Litchfield Rotary Club, we live by the motto Service Above Self. When you join us, even if it's just for one event, you become part of a collective effort. Your contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

(Flyer included in Packet)

13. Community Roadside Cleanup (CRC) Subcommittee– Karl Huber gave update as a follow up with discussions with subcommittee members Chris Thatcher and Ed Thompson. Continuing to work on a policy with procedures for roadside cleanups working with HPD, HFD, and DPW. When finalized, will be presented to the BOS for uploading to the town website. J. Keller asked to be assigned to subcommittee.

14. Composting Subcommittee Updates: Chris Thatcher and other members of the subcommittee will update members. Two composting companies have been consulted with. Hope to have one of these companies present at the next meeting.

15. Update on Hudson Community Power enrollments as presented by Craig Putnam

From the June BOD meeting:

- Annual Rates: CPCNH is working toward offering an annual fixed rate for non-residential customers (mainly municipalities and school districts but commercial accounts may also be interested). The timing for the delivery of this type of rate is dependent on when communities need to know the rate for their

budgeting needs. CEO Callnan is looking for feedback from Members regarding those timelines. CPCNH is hoping to offer two time periods January 2025 – December 2025 and July 2025 – June 2026.

There was no BOD meeting in July.

From the August BOD meeting:

- The new CPCNH rates for the fall rate period are the lowest rate among the utilities in the state and the lowest six-month rate available of all energy suppliers currently offering rates. For every rate offering since going live (four now), CPCNH has been lower in cost than the three investor-owned utilities and for the last three offerings CPCNH has been lower than the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.
- Three new towns (Cornish, Langdon, and Newington) were admitted as CPCNH members bringing the total to 63. As many as 20 additional communities are planning to launch starting October 1st, 2024.
- “NEM 3.0” Docket 22-060: CPCNH is an intervener in this docket which asks the PUC to consider important questions about possible changes to Net Energy Metering (NEM), including whether avoided transmission costs should be considered.
- Hudson CPCNH – current accounts number 8,673 (68% participation rate). Most are on the Granite Basic rate.

16. National Night Out 2024 was on Tuesday August 6, 2024, from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM. New Sustainability Committee banner was displayed...along with an official CPCNH banner. About 50 sticks of sidewalk chalk were given out to children that evening. Chris Thatcher contributed “prizes” to give out in addition to sidewalk chalk- especially to those who contributed a plastic or glass bottle or can to one of the Recycle “bins” set up. Information cards issued by CPCNH explaining the new electrical rates effective August 1 were available. Subsequent to the evening, Craig distributed the CPCNH information cards to the Town Hall and Senior Center. Please let Craig and or Debbie know if you want to have some to put out at other places in Hudson.

17. The next meeting – October 28, 2024

18. Committee Member & Selectman Liaison Comments: B. Guessferd said he would mention the Christmas lights at BOS meeting and C. Thatcher will be catching briefing on social media update.

19. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by A. Hanley, seconded by C. Thatcher. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at...8:19pm

Edward Thomposn
Hudson Sustainability Committee, Secretary Oct 20, 2024

Attachment 1

Hudson Sustainability Committee Meeting 9/23/2024
Update on: NH Network's
Keep NH Green Environmental Summit
In Plymouth, NH 8/24/2024

The New Hampshire Network (for Environment, Energy, and Climate) was founded in January 2021, with 26 individual members from assorted organizations across the Granite State. Their purpose is to facilitate communication among groups concerned about New Hampshire's environment, energy future, and climate. On 8/24/24 they had an annual environmental summit to hone in on priorities for work in the coming year. 51 attendees gathered from across the state. 5 attendees were State Representatives and one is the Director of Energy Transition at Clean Energy NH (Chris Skoglund – formerly at NHDES). In Chris's presentation he started with the wins, showing a picture of the Nashua River from decades ago when it was totally polluted with industrial era waste versus being a kayaking destination now.

He also said that even though we have increased in population we have significantly decreased our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. He encourages our participation in the CCAP (and also that NH residents take advantage of Clean Energy NH's clean energy circuit riders, but I couldn't find where these are applicable for Hillsborough County).

After this we then got into some of the good, and necessary, environmental bills that had a lot of thought and work go into them only to be voted down in the end. Representative Nick Germana explained the steps in putting a bill forward and getting traction for it. He stressed that it's very important to take a long-term view of things as sometimes it takes several years and several tries to make progress. A "glorious exception" was bipartisan support for landfill reform in large part due to the efforts of the North Country Alliance for Balanced Change which brought together a coalition of legislators and stakeholders from many sectors to work in unison and also found a media champion at WMUR.

(This effort focused on the need for NH to improve its planning for solid waste, which we've mentioned before in this meeting where a large, unacceptable percentage is still coming from out of state.)

There were then break-out groups tasked with coming up with "actionable items" to focus on in the coming year. These included:

- Renewable energy options (including community solar, public EV charging and plans for a heat pump accelerator plan in NH)
- Energy efficiency education and outreach (saving NH Saves, retrofitting)
- Waste Reduction (Bottle bill, plastic waste, composting, working with the state's solid waste committee)
- Food system transformation (eating local & seasonal foods, moving toward plant-based alternatives, eliminating food desserts, diverting food waste)

- Preparing the state for carbon pricing at the national level

One of the primary goals of the summit was networking and learning from each other – which the summit achieved. A follow up meeting is planned for October.

Attachment 2

Hudson Sustainability Committee Meeting 9/23/2024 CCAP update

The CCAP – Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is an important environmental effort at the state level which is the next step in the CPRG (Climate Pollution Reduction Grant) process.

To reiterate some of what I'd reported in March (talking then about the PCAP – Preliminary Climate Action Plan), and for background, prior to this effort, the last Climate Action Plan the state developed was way back in 2009 under the administration of then Governor John Lynch.

This grant – again, called the CPRG – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is a result of this federal administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, issued to the NH DES (Dept. of Environmental Services) by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to meet 3 core objectives:

- Reduce climate pollution while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering energy costs for families
- Accelerate work to reduce environmental impacts to low-income, overburdened communities
- Deliver cleaner air by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play and go to school

The grant requires 3 deliverables:

- Development of the PCAP plan (by March 1, 2024) – done, and we participated
- Development of a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) by August 2025 – which has just been extended to December of 2025, delaying the “CCAP Kick off” which was initially scheduled for last week, to some time in the future, with date TBD
- Submittal of a status report by August 2027 (I do not know yet if this 3rd, and last, deliverable has also been extended)

Again, the PCAP was the 1st deliverable. It is 170 pages long and focuses on 5 primary measures and how they could impact the 3 objectives just stated:

1. Transportation Sector
2. Residential Building Sector
3. Local Government Building and Facility Measures
4. Waste and Materials Management
5. Workforce Development

The CCAP takes in all of the input from the many “stakeholder” contributors and moves the planning forward from there. I am on their mailing list and will inform the

Sustainability Committee when the Kick off and other planning events will be held as I become aware of them. More to follow.

The upcoming elections could have a significant impact on this effort, but what's being communicated currently is that the NHDES has pushed out the dates because:

- 1) The US EPA extended the deadline from August '25 to December '25 and this will allow NHDES additional time to better prepare for the planning process and
- 2) Stakeholder feedback was such that the dates that NHDES chose for next meetings were not ones that could be attended by many. This will allow more time for increased participation.

In the meantime, they encourage interested parties to continuously visit the NHDES Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) website for updates.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>