



**Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes July 13, 2021 7 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room, Lee Public Safety Complex
George Bennett Road, Lee, NH**

Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting July 13, 2021 at 7:00PM

I. Call to Order 7:07 pm

Members present: Paul Gasowski (chair), Chuck Cox, Jennifer Messeder, Dean Rubine.

Officials Present: Katrin Kasper, Lee Select Board

II. Preliminary Actions

A. Introductions: Invited Guests

Lou Grondin (Lee Energy Committee)

B. Approval of Agenda

Adding additional information from Chloe Gross, III A.

C. Minutes: Approve Minutes from 6/8/21

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sGa10HRg13uoWmKxqrE7usUqjDcyMOiw/edit>

Chuck moved, Jen 2nd, approved 4-0 as amended.

D. Correspondence/Events: Erika Hunter, Ryan Tirrell, Lou Grondin (Lee Energy Committee)

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1DbnRQRhlgXgiRFoTp_1VqJS6K2m089cm

Paul: Erika Hunter called our attention to: *\$200,000 in funding approved by the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission [of NHDES] to assist small systems to identify and evaluate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of connecting to another community water system, so that systems can make informed decisions regarding the best long-term options for maintaining a safe, reliable drinking water supply for their users.*

Paul: It doesn't sound really applicable to Lee broadly but there are smaller locations in Lee that might consider this. Maybe Oyster River Condominiums, also the Thornton Drive system, administered by Pennichuck out of Nashua.

Paul: Ryan Tirrell, from the middle school building group, Lavallee Brensinger Architects, is putting together a sustainability mural in the lobby. He asks, are there any events over the last hundred-plus years that Lee has participated in that will fit in the category.

Paul: There's a connection to the Conservation Commission as well.

Paul will answer him YES, share with Town Administrator Julie Glover. We can contribute our part on this. Yes as a committee; yes, the town has a rich history of preserving land.

Katrin: This area has been very involved in protecting the New England Cottontail.

Paul: Chuck's farm has a conservation connection.

Chuck: Just looking at land protection in town in the last twenty years could be documented in the mural. Agricultural heritage in Lee as well. Town Forests, nature trails.

Paul: I'll share the email with the committee, we can make our list, I'll share with Julie, who can share it with others. Write various people will get back to you,

Katrin: There's that transfer station video from the 1980s. (I remember saying this but in relation to what we were talking about. I think it was the transfer station and what an important addition it was to the town)

Paul: My student Tracy Peek shot that video. It's on YouTube.

Paul: There's also correspondence with the Town Administrator Julie with regard to Lee's Trees; we'll talk about that later in the agenda.

Lou Grondin (Lee Energy Committee) shared his correspondence in person.

Lou: The energy committee wants to put on an Energy Fair, maybe a Clean EnergyFair. It would be on its own day, September 25, at the Pavilion at Little River Park. Ideas: Drive electric cars -- it will be Drive Electric week throughout the state. I'm hoping we can get 5 or 7 cars to look at, and vendors that may let people test drive cars. Test drives are convincing. I'll be hearing from someone from Clean Energy NH who does the Drive Electric stuff. Another

component: Solar. I'll ask Revision Energy if they want to come. Another thing: People who have arrays could talk.

Dean: I have one.

Chuck: We have one as does Coppal House Farm.

Lou: Some energy committees have put together a solar open house that would be nice too. Have some contractors who upgrade houses for energy efficiency. Talk about the NH Saves program. Heat pumps -- maybe someone from Mitsubishi can talk about mini split pumps. All the energy savings technology. Heat pump water heaters. Company was Ultra Geothermal on Rt 4 -- call them, get them in there. Possibly someone to talk about offshore wind. The big challenge is to get people to come.

Paul: It's a big idea, how are you going to do this? You have only two months.

Lou: I had the idea a long time ago but it's only been two weeks since we have talked about the Lee town Fair, Sept 11.

Chuck: I suggest a presence at the Lee Fair saying this will happen.

Lou: We got an electric car there once. I asked three years ago if people could try out the car; Caren Rossi checked with the police department who said there wasn't enough space. It's better to have our own standalone energy fair.

Paul: People driving the cars won't sit well with insurance carriers. Give up.

Chuck: They could make dealer appointments.

Lou: The person who did the event last week said some of the EV owners let people drive their cars.

Paul: The fact that this would be done by a town committee makes it harder.

Paul: They do a car show at the Fair. Having electric cars there would be nice.

Paul: Suggestion: Simplify to a solar tour on Sept 25, and have a few electric cars at those locations. Tour arrays.

Lou: To try to get people there: Live entertainment, music, maybe different contests: because of the severity of global warming.

Lou: If it looks like its coming together, would the LSC want to have a booth there?

Paul: Think of something simpler.

Katrin: Maybe at the HS they could drive.

Paul: We did a Fix It Workshop that was good.

Lou: This might not work out.

Jen: I could help people switch to renewable electricity suppliers.

Lou: Caren Rossi said the air balloon and the sheep herding couldn't be at the fair.

Chuck: My son converted an ATV to an electric.

Lou: We could have a bike that generated electricity connected to a platform, generate enough electricity and someone falls down into a vat of water.

Paul: The last time that I saw that bike was 8 years ago at a fair at Durham by a group from Dartmouth.

Lou: I'm hoping Walmart will donate an electric lawn mower, Hannaford will provide some food. We have \$400 from our budget, perhaps a magician.

E. Other

III. Discussion Items/Updates

A. Dean/Chuck: Municipal Composting Update/RCWG

https://www.leenh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf776/f/uploads/sustainability_packet_06282021.pdf

Dean: At the RCWG we reviewed the survey ok'd by Lee Select Board and looked at (UNH Sust. Inst. summer intern) Chloe Gross's data, which had a fair amount of missing data. Some of it I was waiting to get back from Public Works Director Steve Bullek -- I'll take the opportunity to remind Jen to try to get this out of Steve; I've cc'd Jen on the relevant emails. The revised survey is still under review; it may have to be revised again as a result of our suggested changes.

Chuck: I talked to farms. Some are interested in composting on site, some in finished compost. Coyote Springs composts manure -- they're very knowledgeable about the process; they would be happy to share that knowledge; they don't want finished compost because of contamination worries.

Paul: Dean, ask Chloe about the changes the UNH IRB wanted to the survey.

Dean: Sure; I'll ask her to share any related documentation too.

[Committee reviews draft emails, flyer.] Suggests adding *food-related* businesses, dates need to be revised. Also, one doc says Durham instead of Lee.

Paul: I like how Chloe enumerates the participating groups and mentions the LSC is an advisory committee and that the survey has the Select Board backing. We should make sure we say that in both E-Crier and email. The plan is E-Crier first, first email, E-Crier again, second email.

Chuck: The E-Crier idea was to let people in Lee know that this committee was active and things were happening; not so much for actual survey participants, FYI for the town.

Jen: There's a run on sentence for goals. Dean will redraft the E-Crier article and email.

Paul: The University is conducting the research. I would be more comfortable if we could see their (the IRB's) initial response.

Dean: We could probably get the actual reports.

Paul: We've upheld our part of the agreement. Durham, Lee, ORCSD and UNH need to be treated all equally.

Dean: They may have to get re-approval in response to these changes; shouldn't delay things too long.

B. Paul: Lee Arts, Crafts and Cottage Industry Directory Update

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HZ3IJ9fkci2S3NWPpnKpMliCG5zxEp88/edit>

Ask Julep if we could do a test drive with Cottage Industries -- Julie preferred artisans to start. Five participants.

Paul: Cottage industries will present a different element than artisan/ craftspersons. Potentially producing edible products.

Jen: What about the idea of skill sharing?
Skill sharing was one of the original sharing ideas.

Jen: I'm more of a tutor-type person than an artisan or craftsman.

Paul: Maybe I read Julie's reaction incorrectly; leave cottage industry there.

Chuck: Each one of us should take the application to someone else, get their feedback.

Paul: If you want to take it yourself, take it yourself. But also try to find someone else. Let's try to turn this around within two weeks. Share among ourselves and via Julie.

Jen: We could do a pilot; I have someone in mind.

C. All: Drought Educational Outreach

Water Stewardship Book/E-Crier Articles

Dean: It's raining. We might have to wait on the drought articles because no one would believe it.

Jen: I'll report our sonar well readings, pre July. It's down 8 inches since the beginning of June. We've been tinkering around to get the silt out to find the real bottom.

Chuck: Our pond is full, flowing out. Fields are muddy now. Glad I cultivated corn before the last two inches. No drought for crops. The amount of groundwater is still a concern. We're set for rain for two or three weeks. Last year we irrigated some stuff.

Paul: How long does it take for water to get into the aquifer?

Chuck: I don't know. When the top is saturated, it slowly goes down through. Are the ponds and streams pushing water back into the soil or taking water from it? It depends on the soil.

Katrin: That would be a good article; talking about soil, runoff.

Chuck is non-committal.

Paul: Will Rich share his measurements?

Jen: That's the plan; we're still debating what the most useful measurement is. We're planning on removing silt which will affect the measurement.

The committee thinks it's still reasonable to do an article about reducing water and other drought-related things.

Dean will write the saving-water-at-home article.

D. Dean/Chuck: Lee's Trees: Then and Now

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1GErWzmXKEM1ZKXGRQ5dsSfxdzpbLymke>

Re Historical Society -- Katrin sent a query, still waiting for a response. Chuck will contact conservation commissions during his annual easement inspection tomorrow.

Paul: I'll talk to the Historical Society. Phyllis White is the chair. I'll try to get some pictures.

Chuck: I can share the flyer with the conservation commission at a walk that begins at the Emerson house at 9am tomorrow, across from Demeritt Hill farm.

Dean will bring a copy of the flyer.

Paul: Julie's concern had to do with denying entries; with the language "we may reject ..." Let's delete that line for tomorrow.

E. Jen: Educational Outreach-Reducing the Waste Stream Steve Bullek and Transfer Station Projects

Katrin: Steve will be getting three new hires, has an intern, hopefully they'll be more responsive in the future.

Chuck: Great job opening the swap shop.

Chuck: Running the Department of Public Works and the Transfer Station is putting a lot of load on one person.

Paul: Dean will work with Will George. Jen will follow up with Steve, offering assistance, fair double check.

F. Jen: Green Burial Update

Jen: No minutes posted yet. The Cemetery Trustees meet every 3 - 9 months.

Dean: Aren't draft minutes supposed to be available within a week?

Paul: Really five days.

Dean: The school board puts draft minutes in the meeting agenda, collects changes from folk's comment.

Paul: I can make a public comment that would be enfranchising.

Katrin: Sounds good.

Jen: I'll gently follow up with the Cemetery Committee.

G. Katrin: SRPC Membership

Caren proposed it to the zoning board; I will start going if no one else goes. I would prefer to have people involved with me.

H. Other

IV. New Business

A. All: Upcoming E-Crier Articles

Dean: “Am I Clean Yet?” Article

Dean: Right to Repair

Katrin has an auto shower shutoff valve that limits how much water is wasted while you wait for it to warm up that would be good to mention.

B. All: Lee Fair Booth and Displays

Fair:

Committee discussed the Lee Fair booth. Jen brought the material from last time’s How to Recycle test. She will update according to the new rules. Someone suggested a game where we have to throw the stuff into the correct bin, instead of writing down the answer.

Jen: We have numbered items, answer sheets, Do fewer than last time. Two years ago. Brown bottles? Compost?

Chuck: Scouts do some of the trash stuff. I’m doing farm games. I’m on the fair committee.

The LSC volunteers to handle compost like last time.

Last time our booth had Lee’s trees, a recycling test, and some books.

Jen: Let’s put our booth next to the energy committee

Jen: I have low carbon diet books paid for by the town, I’ll bring one for Katrin; I have a water stewardship book too.

Paul: We had a few posters, brochure. We had copies of several articles.

Paul: Toss games?

Jen: I had examples of toothpaste bits, other compostable things, dental floss, refillables. I can show Grove, which is a line of all natural household cleaners in reusable glass spray bottles.

Katrin: Does Lush want to donate to us? Ask for samples.

Paul: We have soaps and lotions in town, e.g. from Wendy Fogg.

Paul: I've reserved a table; I'll ask Lou if we want to be side by side.

C. Other

V. Public Comments N/A

VI. Closing Actions

A. Future Meeting Dates: 8/10/21 7pm probably safety complex

Katrin will check for rules about Zoom meetings now.

Chuck: We're still looking for members

Katrin: We might want to ask volunteers at the swap shop to be members. We could put a poster for the LSC at the swap shop.

B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting

See above.

VII. Adjournment

Chuck moves, Jen 2nd, 3-1 in favor of adjournment, Dean voting NO. Adjourned 9:04 pm.

Please email 'sustain@leenh.org' if you have suggestions, comments or questions. Thanks!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Rubine