



## **Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes - February 16, 2022; 7 PM**

1st floor Meeting Room, Public Safety Complex

20 George Bennett Road, Lee NH

**Members Present:** Dean Rubine (Chair), Paul Gasowski, Chuck Cox, Jennifer Messeder

**Members Absent:** N/A

**Officials Present:** Katrin Kasper (by Zoom)

**Public Present:** Sandi Jenkins

**I. Call to Order:** 7:04 pm

**II. Preliminary Actions** (part 1)

**A. Introductions:** Welcome back, Sandi!

**B. Approval of Agenda** (part 1)

Paul will step down as Chair, either now or later this meeting. We require a motion and second to accept his resignation, then nominations and voting for the new Chair. It was decided by consensus that we will address this first in the agenda.

Paul asked that we add to New Business that he had a conversation with Maggie Morrison about the status of Sustainability efforts in the Oyster River Cooperative School District.

**IV. A. Paul – Present, Discuss, Vote on Resignation as LSC Chair** (moved ahead)

Paul moved we accept his resignation as Chair. Chuck seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0. We thank Paul for his long tenure as our Chair.

#### **IV. B. All – Nominate and Vote for New LSC Chair** (moved ahead)

Chuck moved to nominate Dean for Chair of the Lee Sustainability Committee. Jen seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0. Dean is now Chair.

Jen offered to take up the job of taking minutes. Approved by consensus.

Paul, Dean and Jen will collaborate to hand off assets, passwords and so on.

#### **II. Preliminary Actions** (part 2)

##### **B. Approval of Agenda** (continued)

Chuck asked that we add the Backyard Farming Initiative to New Business.

Jen asked that we add to Correspondence an FYI item about an upcoming conference sponsored by the NH chapter of Interfaith Power and Light (IPL).

Agenda approved as amended.

##### **C. Approval of Minutes**

December 14 – Members reviewed and revised the draft minutes on Google Drive. Paul moved to approve the minutes as revised. Dean seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0.

January 11 – Members have been working on the draft minutes on Google Drive. They need a bit more work. ACTION: Jen to smooth out the draft for consideration next month.

##### **D. Correspondence**

Jen, Steve Bullek regarding posting the “One Bin at a Time” eBook on the Transfer Station’s town web site. He approves and would like to print the book as well.

Paul, Katrin Kasper, Andy Robertson regarding insurance for the Artisan Fair (item III.A).

Paul, Sandi Jenkins, Jim Rozycki, Erick Sawtelle regarding the Artisan Fair (item III.A).

Jen Messeder, Mike Nork (DES) regarding Composting Regulations (item III.B.i).

Paul, Emily Woodall, Marianne Smith, Coppal House Farm, Flag Hill Winery regarding prizes for “Lee’s Trees: Then and Now” (item III.D.)

FYI: Phone call from Mike Fleming to Jen Messeder – Mike is a Lee resident and member of NH Interfaith Light and Power. NH IPL is planning a conference for April 9 on the theme, “Greening our Faith Communities,” and Mike invited Jen to give a presentation about the Low Carbon Diet workbook. There’s no action for the LSC. Jen just wanted to keep everyone informed.

**E. Other:** N/A

### **III. Updates on Old Business**

#### **A. Paul/Sandi – Lee Arts and Crafts Fair and Artisan Directory Update**

Katrin and Paul consulted with Andy Robertson about insurance for the vendors and the event as a whole. We are back to Primex; they reviewed the town’s policy. The LSC, vendors, volunteers and event are covered. ACTION: Katrin to double check if there are any fees.

Vendors are permitted to sell their products at the event.

Sandi needs to let the vendors know all of the details soon, including whether they will be charged a fee.

The insurance certificate has been sent to Shelly Price at Mast Way School.

Jim Rozycki confirmed with Paul that we’re all set to use the gym. Dates are flexible.

Regarding dates, the original March 19 date feels too soon. Paul moved that we change the date to Saturday May 7 (event from 10-2; set-up at 9; we must be out by 3). Jen seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0.

Sandi reported that she has 10 vendors confirmed and two pending. She asked about notes she had from an earlier meeting about our offering food at the event. Discussion revealed that food is not permitted, so that is dropped.

Regarding COVID protocols, we recognize that rules might change between now and May and everyone involved will need to follow the ORCSD’s policies, whatever they are at the time.

Sandi offered to put together a draft 8.5x11 ad. Dean offered to help. Some of the vendors could also help.

- Include a footer listing the LSC as the sponsor.
- Possible co-sponsors are the Lee Library (Paul to ask if they are interested) and the Agricultural Commission (Chuck to ask if they are interested).
- Paper flyers to be posted at the Town Office, the Lee Library, Mast Way School, Market Basket (Lee Circle) and Pizza Spinners.
- Online advertising to be posted in the E-Crier and on Facebook (the NeighborLEE group and the LSC group).

Sandi requested a floor plan showing table locations in the gym. Paul to send one.

A question arose whether May 7 is also the date for the Fishing Derby and Fish Fry. Katrin checked and it is. We discussed options for different dates and different times on the same date.

Dean moved to keep the event on May 7 but change the time to 11-3 (set-up at 10; we must be out by 4). Jen seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0.

ACTION: Paul to follow up with Mast Way regarding the May 7, 10-4 plan.

Clarification of the event's name – by consensus, we'll call it the "Made in Lee Artisan Fair."

ACTION: Sandi to put out another call to possible vendors once all of the details are settled.

Sandi departed at 7:47 pm

### **B.i. Dean – Current LSC Facebook Group**

Facebook doesn't allow users to change a private group to a public group, as we had planned to do.

Dean moved that we create a new, public group and later close the private group. Jen seconded. Discussion follows.

Concerns around troublemakers posting to Facebook groups. How open are the existing official groups? In general, they are public, so we're on safe ground to create a public group.

LSC group administrators can take down objectionable posts and block repeat offenders.

We'd need to post clear group rules and pin them to the top of the group (common practice on Facebook). We'd need to treat everyone fairly and in accordance with our posted rules.

With the current private group, we've received friend requests from unfamiliar people. How do we decide who to accept? This is not applicable with a public group. Anyone can like/follow the group without having to be accepted.

To make a smooth transition from the old group to the new, post an announcement to the old group to inform current members to follow the new group. We can also cross-post items from the new group to the old to encourage adoption. After some time, we'll need to decide when to close the old group.

Roll call vote; approved 5-0.

ACTION: Dean to set up the new group.

#### **B.ii. Jen – “Show Us Your Bins” Initiative**

As discussed at the January meeting, LSC members would post pictures of their recycle bins and post them to the new LSC Facebook group and encourage others to do the same. The goal is to inspire more recycling in town.

#### **B.iii. Jen – Update on Composting Rules Revisions**

Jen emailed the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) at the email address they posted with the draft rules, asking for a status update. The email was auto-forwarded to Mike Nork, who replied that they still have a bit of work to do. Outline of steps they are taking:

- Reviewing comments received and preparing a final proposal to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) for their review.
- Hope to file the final proposal with JLCAR in late February.
- Hope to get it on the JLCAR agenda for their March meeting.
- Working on a summary of comments they received and providing responses.

#### **B.iv. Paul – Transfer Station Economics vs Reducing Waste**

Paul expressed a concern about emphasizing income from recycling over reducing waste, and the fact that department heads don't get to keep any earnings that are the fruit of the department's good money management.

Steve Bullek has done a great job managing the Transfer Station, but the realized income rolls to the general fund. He doesn't get to keep it.

Katrin noted that there hasn't yet been a majority of Select Board members willing to pass the idea that department heads keep their earnings. She did note that Steve did get a new employee and is the highest paid department head, so he is realizing some reward for his efforts.

Regarding income vs reducing waste, there is something of a "push-pull" interplay between them. Ideally, residents will buy less (reduce consumption), but that leads to less stuff to recycle and less income from recycling. It also reduces the cost to haul MSW.

If we focus on the Transfer Station as an economic venture, are we encouraging residents to buy more so they have more to recycle? On the other hand, communicating how much we earn to recycle (and how we avoid costs for MSW hauling) can be an incentive to residents who are not yet recycling at all.

We want to continue this discussion of how we can encourage both reduced consumption and recycling on an ongoing basis. Maybe take a "good-better-best" approach to meet residents where they are and help them move in the right direction.

An additional question is whether the "Show Us Your Bins" initiative is focused on full bins – consumption followed by recycling rather than reduced consumption. Jen replied her intention was not to emphasize the fullness of bins, but on the variety of organizational approaches residents take with their bins. The goal would be to inspire new recyclers to start.

### **C. Dean/Chuck – RCWG Final Report and Municipal Composting Update**

Dean emailed the final report to LSC members this evening. The summary for Lee is that we are doing a good job composting at the Transfer Station and that we should continue to do more of the same. Our focus should be on education and reducing food waste and composting at home or at the Transfer Station.

We'd also like to explore the "Table to Farm" idea, probably in cooperation with the Agricultural Commission. The goal would be to send food waste to local farms to use instead of paying Mr Fox to take it.

It was noted that some other states (CA, MA and VT) are either getting stricter about food waste in landfills or not allowing it at all. Such laws could be coming our way.

A Backyard Farming Initiative connection is that Matt Rowell's neighbor brings their compost to Matt for his chickens.

The next step is to present the final RCWG report and our recommendations to the Select Board, but we'd like to review it first.

ACTIONS: All to review the report and be prepared to discuss it at our March meeting. Chuck and Dean to present the report to the Select Board upon LSC approval.

Future discussions will sort out what we'll do ongoing, and who will be the point person for each initiative.

#### **D. Paul – “Lee’s Trees: Then and Now” Update, Contest Winners and Awards**

Paul reported that he reached out to our two winners to see if they preferred a gift certificate from Coppal House Farm or Flag Hill Winery. One winner chose Coppal House and the other chose Flag Hill.

Paul purchased the certificate from Coppal House, and Flag Hill donated theirs. He delivered the certificates to the winners and is requesting a \$30.00 reimbursement for the certificate he purchased.

Dean moved that we reimburse Paul \$30.00. Chuck seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0. Many thanks to Paul for coordinating the prizes.

ACTION: Paul to get the form and request reimbursement.

#### **E. Paul/Katrin – LSC FY22 Available Funds and FY23 Budget Update**

Regarding remaining funds for **FY22**, which roll back to the general fund as of July 1 – Paul asked how much remains but hasn't gotten an answer yet.

Ideas for using current funds:

- The “Made in Lee Artisan Fair,” if there are expenses
- New initiative, “If I Only Had a Bin” – purchase recycling bins to help residents who would recycle more if they had a bin
- Allow excess funds to roll back to the general fund
- The Lee Artisan Directory (though that will likely not require funding as it will be online, not printed)
- Repurpose the Police Department's old server for town committee use (item IV.C, below)

Regarding **FY23** – there are no funds for the LSC in next year's budget.

#### **IV. New Business – Dedicated Hard Drive, New IT Committee (moved ahead)**

##### **C. Katrin/Paul – Dedicated Committee/Commission Hard Drive Options**

Related to use of LSC funds remaining in the FY22 budget, this topic was moved forward in the agenda.

The Lee Police Department will be replacing its server and is offering the old server to the town. It's unknown if the server will need work before it can be repurposed for another use.

Parallel to this, the Select Board would like to create an IT Committee. The new Committee might not come about until after July 1, so the timing might not work for us to use LSC FY22 funds to support any necessary work the old server might need. We might be able to encourage the Select Board to move on this more quickly.

Dean expressed interest in joining the IT Committee when it's formed, and he was instructed to reach out to Cord Blomquist.

ACTION: Dean to ask Lee Police Chief Thomas Dronsfield about the old server and what work it might need.

#### **III. Updates on Old Business (continued)**

##### **F. Katrin – SRPC Update**

Katrin is attending SRPC meetings and consulting with the Lee Energy Committee. There is a lot of money available and she puts in a good word for Lee often.

One idea was around paths and trails to make Lee more walkable and bikeable, but that would cost about \$100,000. Too much.

Other ideas are:

- Energy efficiency projects.
- An electric car charger, possibly by the Safety Complex, allowing for an electric police cruiser. The Chief is on board with this idea. Adding a solar panel to allow for solar car charging would also be good.
- Creating woodsy trails, perhaps in cooperation with the Trails Committee.
- Projects around use of the Lee Triangle.

With any project that the SRPC helps fund, there are not only up-front costs, but also ongoing costs for maintenance that we need to consider.



**G. Other:** N/A

**IV. New Business** (not already addressed)

**D. All – New Members and Current Membership Terms**

Reminder to Paul, Dean and Chuck to renew their LSC memberships by March 31.

Reminder to all to think about possible new members to invite.

**E. All – COVID and Future Meetings**

No change in State rules. Dean will request Zoom access if needed.

**F.i. Other – Backyard Farming Initiative 2022**

Chuck reported that he and Donna Lee Woods have been working with Hayley Van-Gils (the new Library Director) to plan out a series of backyard “farms” this year. The idea is a twilight visit to homeowners who are using some or all of their properties to produce food. Part of each event would be a discussion of nutrition and the importance of local foods.

The goal is to start in April and have an event monthly until August or so. The team is considering the fourth Monday of each month. They hope to return to meeting at the Grange when feasible.

Chuck asked if the LSC would like to co-sponsor this initiative as we have done in the past. (This might be another way to spend FY22 funds if any remain.)

Jen moved that we co-sponsor the Backyard Farming Initiative’s series of events. Paul seconded. Roll call vote; approved 5-0.

**F.ii. Other – Sustainability within the ORCSD**

Paul had reported last month regarding his conversation with Maggie Morrison about the future of sustainability in the ORCSD. He’d like to follow up with the District regarding this important work. The idea was approved by consensus.

**V. Public Comments:** N/A

## **VI. Closing Actions**

### **A. Future Meeting Dates:** March 1

ACTION: Dean to work with Denise Duval to extend future meeting dates and locations.

### **B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting**

As above. Jen and Dean will collaborate.

## **VII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:05

**Respectfully submitted, Jen Messeder**

Please email [sustain@leenh.org](mailto:sustain@leenh.org) if you have suggestions, comments or questions.