

ORSC Steering Committee Minutes  
January 14, 2014 at 5pm Room 120 ORHS

Present: Maggie Morrison, Julia Dundorf, Dennis Harrington, Nell Neal, Cristina Dolcino

I. Call to Order 5:12 motion: Cristina second: Dennis

II. Welcome/Introductions - completed

III. Preliminary Actions

1. Approval of Agenda - motion: Nell second: Cristina

2. Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2013 meeting - motion: Nell second: Dennis

3. Correspondence/News-

An email forwarded from Paul from Julia Dundorf, New England Grassroots Environment Fund [NE Grassroots Fund](#), inquired about what is happening at ORSCD. Cristina invited her to attend this meeting

An email made its way to Cristina from Charles Forcey, Durham Energy Committee, which responded to Lisa Huppe's email regarding community bus stops between the High School and Middle School within the walking zone (only when snow is on the ground). Charles Forcey's email contributed the initial work being discussed by the Durham Energy Committee to reduce the car traffic in the downtown/school area for both students and community members. Cristina forwarded this email to ORSC requesting individuals to discuss this further. Paul emailed interest in this work.

IV. Public Comments- Julia Dundorf, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, which is an 18 years old nonprofit. Grassroots Environmental Fund's mission is to support sustainability efforts at the grassroots level through grants (i.e., community citizen groups, community gardens, real strong tie-in groups). Two grants exist: Seed grant: revolving deadline \$1,000 and Grow grant: \$ up to 32,000 awarded 2 times a year. The second focus involves the offering of training opportunities. NEDEF coordinates the NH Local Energy Work Groups which includes: nonprofits (key state organizations), planning commissions, green builders, forest center, Facility managers, businesses, etc...

Other resources provided by NEGEF

- NHEnergy.org - Local energy solutions network - including monthly e-newsletter
- Webinars during- "lunch and learn" online (available at nhenergy.org)

Also working with local energy network, planning of a yearly conference: Sat. April 12<sup>th</sup> workshops - Winnisquam Reg. HS, Tilton, NH, working on how Energy and Commissions are weaving together different initiatives, energy efficiency, community partnerships/networking

Julia: asked us what were our needs to better support our work?

Nell- This is all great but I feel overwhelmed when I see all the information I could be reading and watching. Could you (Julia) tell us what you think we should do?

Maggie: Green Team has a different perspective of each town being in our own boxes. We need to reconfigure ourselves so we work collaboratively and utilize our full potential.

Cristina: Wouldn't it be beneficial if we first gather the data for the 3 Communities before starting an involved discussion on any ORSD "reorganization?"

Julia: Maybe one grant possibility would be to have a gathering of all the community "parties" to work on a shared community engagement strategy/process and network development. To take it forward and keep momentum forward. I could use help finding other "islands" in the state of schools involved in sustainability- this is where I could use help.

Cristina will work to gather a list of educational contacts for Julia to help her bring "islands" together of educators, sustainability related groups/schools etc...

Julia: Maybe the first step is to have Community wide survey with as much participation from as many citizens from the 3 towns as possible. Gathering the interests/The survey (online) would ask questions to help determine areas of interest, After the data is collected from the survey a "networking" meeting will take place with a facilitator. At this meeting, the data would be reviewed and then the "next" step could be discussed. This might be some restructuring of the individual Town organizations, project development, or ????. The data would provide the framework for what could take place next for various groups/organizations. For example: "A" organization would take on this project, "B" organization will take on that project etc...

This survey-meeting process will help pool resources, promote collaboration, network, generate more involvement etc....

The key is to find the people in the 3-town Communities who have "passion points" and join them up.

Nell: What should we do to create this survey?

Cristina: How about talking with the UNH Survey Center?

Julia: Maybe a seed grant would provide you with the money needed to complete the survey, analyze the data, facilitate the "networking" meeting etc...

UNH Cooperative Extension may be another contact to help with the meeting structures after the survey.

Dennis and Nell will meet with other "umbrella" representatives from the 3 towns (e.g., faith, energy committees, commissions) to start work on the proposal of using a survey to gather data. This proposal will then be presented at the 3-12-14 Full ORSD meeting for approval.

## V. Old Business

### 1. Discussion Sub Committees work- Did not discuss specifically

2. Green Teams work- Maggie: results of Power Down and the importance of PR this data. Hoping to have by the end of January the data  
After a discussion by the Green Team members the next project will be the planning of "Sustainability Tours" for the Community. Sat. April 12<sup>th</sup> is being considered as one date.
3. Update on "Production Garden" letter from Dr. Morse- letter was emailed out by Dr. Morse to the families of ORCSD and possibly other individuals. Waiting to see the individuals who respond interested in getting involved.  
ORSD School and Gardens subcommittee will decide who will receive the next emailing of Community individuals/groups/organizations whom might be interested.
4. Button Up Event Update- publicity is almost complete. Thanks to Maggie, Nell, Cristina, and Mary for their effort.
5. Other- Nell: Mary Caulfield and Nell met with Kathleen Young and her class to start some PR with HS students. Through OR TV and DCAT. Some wonderful ideas were thought up by the students: Did you know? Follow the compost? What differences do these make in our lives? Interviews by teachers, Earth Day info, tours of community school energy, Short segments were suggested by students than one long piece.  
A skit by Moharimet students will be presented (Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-10:30) to reinforce the reasons we need to be stewards of the Earth.

#### VI. New Business

1. Discussion of how to promote initiatives/media work- Dennis: asked when the Green Teams would like to have a reporter do a story on ORSC efforts along with some involvement  
Maggie will tell Dennis when to let Foster's and Debra McDermitt from Portsmouth Herald-Seacoast Online

- VII.
1. Process to look at our Composition/membership as a committee- Discussed during
  2. Collaboration invitations- Did not discuss
  3. Other- None

VIII. Public Comments- Julia thanked us for inviting her to this meeting.

#### IX. Future Steering Meeting date

Next meeting Tuesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm the OR High School, Room 120.

#### X. Future Full ORSC Meetings at ORHS Library:

~~Wed. Jan. 8, 2014 7pm Snowdate Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>~~

Wed. March 12, 2014 7pm

Wed. May 14, 2014 7pm

XI. Closing Actions (5 minutes)

- a. Agenda planning for next Steering Committee meeting
- b. Agenda planning for March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Full ORSC meeting-none
- c. Other

XII. Adjournment 6:43pm motion: Cristina second: Nell

DRAFT