

## ORCSD Full Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2014 at 7:00pm ORHS Library (rescheduled from 3-12-14 due to a bad weather event).

Present: Nell Neal, Lisa Huppe, John Carroll, Ed Charle, Matt Lynch, Dennis Harrington, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Mary Caulfield, Maggie Morrison, Doris Demers, Eliza Balch (ORHS student), Nell Neal, Shelley Mitchell, Jeffrey Sires, Brian Taetzsch, Leticia Denoya, Cristina Dolcino, Chuck Cox (late),

I. Call to Order 7:11pm Introductions all around.

II. Preliminary Actions (15 minutes)

- A. Approval of Agenda: 7:16 motion: Dennis second: Shelley All approved
- B. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2014: motion: Sarah second: Mary All approved
- C. Correspondence/Announcements- none
- D. Other- None

III. Public Comments (5 minutes) - No public present

IV. Discussion/Updates (25 minutes)

A. Green Teams Detailed Update .....Power Down Results

HS- Eliza presented the work of the ORHS Sustainability Club. Today there was a presentation made by the Club to the student body, Rian Benard, from Mr. Fox Composting, came to educate the students about composting and why composting was not continued at the HS, for the several months, due to contamination. The presentations were well received. Signs up will take place to cover the monitoring of the recycling-compost bins for the lunch periods. National Honor Society will also be at each lunch to guide people.

It seems the biggest issue is that taking the time/effort to compost-recycle is "not cool" for the majority of the HS students. Hopefully the student body will turn to the Sustainability Members with questions now that they are more of a "known" entity in the school. Also hope to add a composting bin in Core for the seniors who eat there.

Video production class recorded presentation

The Sustainability Club is now 12 members... 8 were in the presentation along with Emily and Rian Benard.

Matt- consider also composting from the kitchen

Mary- it took MW about 2 months of monitoring for the "composting/recycling" behavioral habit to be significantly established by the students

- a. Middle School - Cafeteria is going great. Mary visits routinely to check the buckets and so far the contamination is at a minimum amount.  
Since October compost/recycling collection and electricity usage data has been collected and it has been sent out to the math teachers for instructional use.

October 2013-January 2014 - a total of 5,400 pounds of compost from the Middle School has been collected and delivered to Mr. Fox composting. From "nonscientific" data collection, much of that food comes from home lunch box (e.g., half eaten apple, granola bar opened up and just thrown in, untouched food).

A recent question we have asked is: How can the food that typically is put in the compost be "saved" from just being compost?

A "help yourself" table has been set up at the middle school. Food is left and can then be taken by another person.

Recommendation: if any future Solar Panels work is started it should focus on helping students learn and work with solar power information and not purely focus on making electricity.

- b. Mast Way- Maggie

The Watershed Project Assembly is being worked on by the staff and will be presented to the School.

Compost is going well and expanding throughout school.

Work is taking place to shift the education piece of composting in the classroom.

A shift is taking place to reconsider how to make the use of paper/plastic products to a minimum and simple during special activities/School events which would help keep the waste down.

- c. Moharimet- The Moose, Maple, and Mountain Snow Powerpoint and artifacts will be presented to the classes over the next two weeks. This information was collected with the help of Pete Pekins, professor at UNH Department of Natural Resources & the Environment helped provide facts and animal artifacts.

Maple sugaring is underway with each class collecting sap during this very "slow to start" season. A skit performed by all the students in a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class shared information about recycling, composting, and how following sustainable practices helps keep our Earth healthy.

Overall Green Team news:

A Compost Video- being produced by the students of Kathleen Young -

A Green Team Efforts video - producing a video by Kathleen Young

A visit to EcoMaine recycling program was taken by Mary, Nell, and Maggie last week. Very interesting operation and a lot of new information was learned about how recycling takes place in large scale.

B. Subcommittees Update (25 minutes) -

a. Food and Gardens: School gardens have not been worked- too much snow still!

b. Transportation: Use of biodiesel fuel today has restarted (The original shut down was not necessarily related to the cold temperatures.)

20 buses will gradually be put back to biodiesel. Hopefully they will back to bio by the end of the year...December 2014.

3 new buses coming in will have a bio-diesel filtering system and a heating system that keeps warm inside without idling and warm starting.

Cost of biodiesel verses regular gasoline is about the same by the end of the year yet the health benefits is significantly

On February 3, 2014 Dr. Morse and Lisa ok'd the pick-up of students who walk to school to help eliminate parents needing to drive their student in the cold weather.

This practice will continue until April 4. The increase in traffic =parents dropping off, is causing congestion for the busses and they are idling more, this causes a delay in all the schools picking-up students. Not many kids are taking advantage of this pick up unfortunately. Running the buses on biodiesel is much cleaner and healthier for the drivers and children.

c. Facilities - Nell- At the last facilities meeting this week, the group began to talk about the overlap between ORSC current subcommittees and the work being focused on by the Green Team leaders. How do we structure what we are focusing on so we work a little more efficiently as a Committee?

Green Ribbon Schools Grant- This application is a Federal program, awarded to schools or Districts for "green" initiative that focuses on three pillars:

\*Reduce environmental impact and costs.

\*Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.

\*Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating S.T.E.M., civic skills, and green career pathways.

The recommendation is to review the framework of this grant and use it as an organizational tool to evaluate our work. We are not necessarily applying for a grant at this time, but use the process of applying of this grant as a evaluative tool. Some projects have already been focused on by Green Team leaders. Reviewing the grants awarded to other schools can help us with our efforts and to look at our organization and how we can work more efficiently. The grant encourages connections with the Town.

In addition to this, Green Ribbon Schools Grant being looked at by the Facilities Department is the Farm to School Implementation Grant, Doris and Jennifer Wilhelm are completing for the end of April. Meeting has taken place with Jim Rozycki about elements.

Matt- Wondering how the data collection is going with the District? We need to share our data but we first need to collect the data it.

Nell- Jim R is collecting data and we need to find a way to better share the data/demographics/per school/ time frames etc.... Place in language that can be related to financials also.

Next step: For the full committee to think about the possibilities of using the Grant as a model/template for future work and be prepared to vote on this suggestion at our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

FYI- To be granted a Green Ribbon Award the State Dept. of Ed. needs to nominate the school. Phillips Exeter Academy was Awarded this in 2013. You can go on the site and read all the schools in the country who have achieved this distinction.

d. Educational Outreach: Introduce UNH Interns-

Jeff Sires- UNH Senior, Civil Engineering Major (water primarily), have experience working with restoration, has worked with Dave Cedarholm, and will work on the District's Ecological Footprint. The ecological footprint is a project that has been successfully worked on by the two previous UNH interns.

Brian - UNH Junior, Environmental Science Major and a minor physics, has worked at a School's summer camp with the gardening program. He would like to work directly with the school gardens and students.

Leticia- UNH Junior, Environmental Conservation and Sustainability Major. She will be working with gardens and Green Ribbon Grant, interested in working in Environmental Education. Has experience with HS composting

Each intern will complete paperwork at SAU.

Joe, MaryEllen, and one other individual (TBD) will supervise Leticia and Brian and their work with the school gardens.

End 68 hours of Hunger <http://end68hoursofhunger.org/> is being organized in the District. About 25 students are being provided food in the District. A shift to more nutritious foods may happen in the future. One requirement is that the food needs to be easily prepared by children without necessarily adult supervision.

C. "Production" Garden Letter (5 minutes)

- a. Dennis: The development of a back plan for "production" gardens has begun. One meeting has taken place after letters were sent to parents in the District and Community. Key Results (outcomes) have been established after brainstorming. After The next step is to close gaps between where we are now and where we would like to be in the future. The next meeting is Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Moharimet.

D. Child Nutrition Director (10 minutes)

- a. Farm to School Grant- Jennifer W. is working on this grant with Doris. Doris has completed a budget. Some of the budget includes: Hoop House for 3 schools (Jim R. thinks all will fit except maybe not the MS), gardening equipment, curriculum, field trips to other schools, kitchen equipment, and importantly a Farm to School Coordinator (stipend). The grant can be set up to \$100,000 Stipulation: ORSCD must pay 25% of what is requested. We are applying for an Implementation Grant- 1 year grant. Doris has spoken to Dr. Morse about what will happen for subsequent years of funding. It is hoped that the Hoop Houses will extended season and then less will be bought from the produce supplies but still the purchasing from local Farmers will continue Trash- Wondering if the children were told they don't have to stop eating now

This year's Local food funds have all been used up for this school year.

A new manager was hired for MW- She is UNH grad with a degree in nutrition and culinary.

The next Community dinner will be Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm at the ORHS

The final Community dinner will be on June 5<sup>th</sup>. the same night as the ORHS Art Show

School lunch: Participation has increased by 43% at Moharimet this year

The other schools have also increased. Mast Way has increased by 5%,

The MS has increased a little.

The HS breakfast has increased significantly

c. Product Safety University- Doris will attend this at the end of April/May.

E. School Board Update (10 minutes) - Ed- Two new school board members were elected in March: Denise Day, Sarah Farrell. A presentation took place about the proposal for a new athletic field- drainage is the biggest amount of money, track, artificial field due to 3 times as much activity,

F. 3 Towns collaboration and "summit" work (10 minutes)-

Maggie- Conversation as taken place with Julia Dundorf and Kevin Gardner (Durham Energy) to have an Environmental Summit in the spring. Faith, Municipal Committee, and ORSC will meet yearly to talk about the initiatives. What support/leverage is needed to move work forward (e.g., Durham Energy ... more walking/biking lanes...) with various work/projects?

It seems that different groups are working in their own "box" without the efficiency and collaboration. The hope is that a Durham "Summit" will help organize 'forces" and lead to more efficiency.

The Summit will take place this spring, facilitated by an outside person, funding is being seeked by some Faith Communitites, Town.

Maggie requested that ORSC provide \$100 toward the "Summit" meeting. This money will be used by the facilitator, refreshments, printing costs etc... .

It was voted, by full approval, to contribute \$100 from the Educational Outreach funds to the "Durham Summit" meeting anticipated for this spring..

The Summit will start in Durham and then other Towns will be encouraged to hold their own "Summit" meeting..

Maggie requested that a person from ORSC be involved in the Planning Committee for the "Summit" meeting - Shelley volunteered to be ORSC's representative. Thank you Shelley.

G. Public Relation Projects (10 minutes)-

A. Kathleen Young videos?- see Green Team minutes from this meeting

B. Student Writing Classes- no discussion

H. Summer work: brochure- needs to be updates

Expand more of the policy - did not discuss

Shelley- asked about the difficulty it is to locate ORSC on the District's site. It seems the "Green Oyster" is not connected with ORSC minutes. It would be helpful for links to be made between the subcommittees and ORSC. Cristina will work on improving this situation.

#### V. New Business

- A. Green Schools Application - Pillars and Elements (15 minutes)- See Facilities minutes
- B. Future ORSC events (5 minutes)- did not discuss
- C. Other- Local Energy Solutions Conference- Saturday, April 12, 2014 in Tilton. Julia Dundorf's planned this conference

#### VI. Closing Actions (5 minutes)

- A. Reminder for full ORSC meeting dates for 2013-2014 school year at ORHS Library

~~Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 7pm~~

~~Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 7pm~~

~~Wednesday, January 8, 2014 (snow date January 9) at 7pm~~

~~Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7pm~~

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 6pm (potluck dinner and meeting at Moharimet School)

- B. Next Steering Meeting: **Wednesday, March 26, 2014** 5pm at OR High School, Rm. 120

- C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting and POTLUCK on May 14, 2014

- a. Green Ribbon Schools - vote by full Committee to use grant as a template for our work/organization
- b. Update of new UNH interns' work

VI. Adjournment      9:14                      motion: Cristina                      second: Nell                      All approved.