

Sustainability Steering committee meeting

Libby's restaurant - Durham

Tuesday August 19, 2014

In attendance: Jon Carroll, Ed Charle, Doris Demers, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Maggie Morrison, Dennis Harrington, Barry Kaplan, Brian Taetzsch

- I. Call to order 5:10 Motion: Brian Second: Maggie
- II. Welcome
- III. Preliminary actions
 - a. Agenda approval- Motion: Maggie Second: Doris
 - b. Approval of the minutes from June 9, 2014 motion: Maggie Second: Brian
 - c. Correspondence/ news - Jon shared how the Governor recently signed in the Granite State Farm to Plate Law. Local production of food should be considered and encouraged in the state. Sponsored by Martha Fuller Clark. Written by Martha Fuller Clark and Jon Carroll at Young's Restaurant.
Doris - WholesomeWave .com contacted Doris and they will be having a bike tour coming through Durham. A Photographer from the group will be photographing 2 farms and the Mastway gardens September 19.
- IV. Public comments – none
- V. New Business
 1. Discussion of full committee organizational process for upcoming year.
 - a. Cristina's idea = Committee members choose a pillar to focus on for the year.
 - Pillar 1 Reduce environmental impact and costs.
 - Pillar 2 Improve the health and wellness of students and staff
 - Pillar 3 provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Maggie suggested we also look at a time line for each goal.

Dennis suggested we review the pillars before the meeting in September.

Barry- Pillar 2 seems huge.

- b. Accountability of tasks _ will discuss this later
- c. Communication between steering committee and larger committee – is this working?

Sarah LD – are we making the sure the large group is informed? Do people want to be more involved?
Maggie – Does our group need to be so large?
Dennis – we should have a different person than Cristina running the meetings and working so hard. I'm concerned that we are asking her to do too much. I'm concerned about her.
Maggie – we need to tackle this honestly.
Ed – the large group makes it hard to work but it is good to have so many voices.
Dennis – She is an excellent leader
Maggie – we need to get more people from Lee Ag involved.
Dennis – We need involvement from all the school. Hoping to get Mark Milliken involved in the group.
The new Asst. Principal.
Sarah – I recently met with Mastway ¾ teachers and was so jazzed about what they are doing with their student and gardens in regards to sustainability.
Jon – we've never said no to a person that wanted to join our group.
Dennis – research says small groups is better.
Ed – perhaps the minutes need to be shared with the large group.
Dennis – maybe the draft minutes are ok to send.
Sarah LD – I'm happy to take notes and support Cristina in any way.

- d. Membership and duties – still needs to discuss what we're interested in working on.
Dennis – we need more folks.
Dennis -Cristina will write a letter to Foster's. We need a rep from the high school (Mark Milliken?) and middle school.
Maggie will check with MaryEllen Webb to see if she is still interested in her work.
Sarah will approach the new Middle school teachers about joining the group.
- e. Begin process of Brainstorming ideas –
Cristina (via Dennis) is interested in how do we keep a finger on what is happening?
Maggie – its people responsibility to read prior to the meeting what the projects are so we can save time at a meeting (no more lengthy presentations). Prior reports sent out via email before would help with this.
Maggie – We are a hybrid committee – we are a board appointed committee but accountable to the superintendent.

VI. Old business

- 1. Green Teams
 - a. Summer work – team leaders have met with Doris, Jim and Josh to reflect on last year and hear new ideas for this year.
 - b. Green Team plan – water is the theme for the year. Water can be measured in the HS and MS. (not MOh and MW). MW is looking to build a rain garden to alleviate the issues with water in the parking lot. Tricky part is that the land is on the Church not the school. Hopefully in the spring it will come through. MW will be able to invite Moh students to see the rain garden. Could also be a Service Palooza for the MS students.
-Green team leaders met with Phillips Exeter's green team leaders and shared ideas. Exeter has a strategic Plan that Maggie will share at the next meeting.
-Dennis would love to see the schools collect the plastic bottles of water that are thrown away and have them strung up and displayed for kids to see. Set goals with students to reduce the amount.
-Leaders met with Todd Allen and he shared ideas on who to have in the HS green team committee. He is committed to establishing a student led group. They shared the athletic challenge with him to broaden the sustainability awareness. Cyd will meet with Todd and the athletic director, Corey Parker to share the challenge for each team to come up with ideas. Menu of examples – reduce water bottles used, encourage carpooling, hydration stations on the athletic fields, research with other high schools are doing at a national level. Todd suggested we think about students doing internships and independent studies regarding Sustainability. Also, an event policy – no Styrofoam, no plastic.
-Maggie shared with us that the high school group had their first meeting already. They have come up with their objectives for the year and are interested in working with Brian.
-Mary and Maggie attended the recycling conference in Manchester. Lucas Schrader won an award at the meeting. Perhaps we can get the 4th and 5th graders involved.
 - c. Summit meeting update – The group has decided to focus on three ideas - Solar energy, reducing waste and Styrofoam use in Durham, improve nature trails.
 - d. Intern update – Brian may be going abroad in the spring.
 - e. Production garden – taking a hiatus over the summer but Dennis reports that pumpkin garden looks great.
 - f. Other – Doris suggested a gleaning project.
- Maggie shared there was a meeting this past summer about the Food Hub/Gleaning project in the community. Using school kitchens to process one type of vegetable to be served in the schools. Perhaps tomatoes or squash.

VII. Public comments – none

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 Motion – Brian and Second: Doris.