

ORSC Full Meeting - Minutes- Draft
January 25, 2017 at 7:00pm ORHS Conference Room 120

Present: Maggie Morrison, Kristin Houle, Damion Woodard, Nell Neal, Shelley Mitchell, Tracy Schroeder, John Carroll, Cristina Dolcino, MaryEllen Webb, Dan Klein, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen (arrived about 7:25pm)

I. Call to Order 7:05 Motion: MaryEllen Second: Maggie All approved.

II. Introductions- introductions made

III. Preliminary Actions

A. Approval of Agenda: Motion: Sue Second: Tracy Approved

B. Approval of Minutes of November 30, 2016 motion: Shelley second: Cristina All approved

C. Correspondence/Announcements

Cristina: Powder Major <https://www.forestsociety.org/project/conserves-powder-majors-farm-and-forest-seacoast-region>

The Stewardship Network Workshops

https://aws.predictiveresponse.net/view_as_a_page/index.php?org=785&lea=11-10000002332-2&ite=1652/

Shelley shared: NE Resource Recovery Ass. Conference & Expo - Radison, Manchester
May 22-23, 2017

John: NH Organic Farmer's Conference, Concord, NH

<http://www.nofanh.org/winterconference>

Kristin: Fund Raising Opportunity for Oyster River Forest Trails

https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/fund-raising-opportunity-oyster-river-forest-trails

IV. Expenditures and request for purchases

A. Request for funds by staff- no requests

V. Discussion/Updates

1. Update on Green Team applicant process and next step-

Sue- 3 candidates interviewed: one person has been offered the position

Another candidate is interested in ORSC

2. Green Team Leaders Update-

MW- Maggie-second half of year will be a theme of Earth Day- celebration, lessons for whole school, "trash free lunch," watching the movie Lorax- All a whole school events

Working with 4th grade teachers on energy - reached out to Charles Forcey, Durham Energy Committee, who is helping to organize a field trip to Durham's Solar Array in the future.

Kristin- starting maple sugaring, visiting with 1st grades for gardening plot lessons-planting, Tracey has emailed Ron Christie for raised beds advice, Doris has been consulted on the type of vegies that could be planted for "production" for use in School Nutrition Program
After maple sugaring season a Community rain barrel workshop will be offered on a Saturday in April. Maggie is also helping with this project.

HS Sus Club- Sponsoring the showing of Cindy Jones video about Seacoast Reliability Project (Eversource) expansion of transmission lines) will not be ready for the Feb date, but the video will be ready for Thursday, March 30th at 6:30pm! Cindy Jones will organize a panel discussion following the movie. A charge will be asked which will go to compensate Cindy for the filming/production of this video.

Maggie will ask Cindy what she thinks of also having a Community Dinner (check with Doris) Maggie was hoping that ORSC could also sponsor this showing along with other area "sustainability related" organizations.

Discussion also to offer an honorarium to Cindy for this showing.

Maggie- made the motion for the honorarium for Cindy Jones movie:

"I motion to have ORSC sponsor the showing of Cindy Jones's Seacoast Reliability Project movie on March 30th and provide her with an honorarium. The amount will be discussed with Cindy and an email will be sent out to members to inform everyone of the honorarium's amount." Second-Shelley

The vote for the honorarium's amount will be voted on at the next Steering mtg also.

Tracy- how much for the honorarium will be determined after talking with Cindy with a vote at our next Steering meeting. Maggie will check with Cindy about the amount.

All approved.

Nell- The interest of the HS students to get involved in civic responsibility by sponsoring the movie and students connecting with Andrew Ogden is another great example of civic responsibility. We need to make sure the students understand the importance and potential their involvement holds.

3. Update on 2016-17 ORSC initiatives- quickly please

A. Curriculum sub-committee: Sarah L-D, Nell, Kristin, Cristina, Maggie, Todd Allen

This initiative is based on the School Board's Charge: To investigate current teaching practices and determine where sustainability is currently being taught in the curriculum. In addition, to create a scope and sequence for topics related to sustainable practices and concepts for PreK-12. Throughout this work, we need to incorporate and synthesize the work being done by the District's Science Committee, recognize the current workload of staff, and include subjects across disciplines and subjects.

Green Ribbon Award application - <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/applicant.html>

Nell- Todd is going to send out a 5 question survey to ALL staff in mid-February.

One more meeting before survey is sent out.

Todd- a second pass will take place to gather more information on what is exactly being taught.

B. Communication with Dr. Morse - Shelley

Meeting with Dr. Morse, Todd, Sue, and Shelly on Dec. 7, 2016

Memo highlights of this meeting included:

*There is a lack of senior management representation- this limits our work, especially considering ORSC is based on volunteers from in the District and Community

There is a need to increase "buy-in" from teachers: sharing our goals throughout District, attending our meetings. We know human behavior is difficult to change.

Todd is attending this meeting and Dr. Morse will attend our March 22, 2017 meeting, 7pm
ORHS rom 120

*We are grateful to the ORSC members and the work of "friends" of ORSC for now five years of work. Dr. Morse discussed the possibility of offering teachers an incentive who commit to a term on the Sustainability Committee. He would like to have greater representation by Middle/High, but is limited by contractual issues.

* Factors involving the plastic water bottles usage and "grab and go" practice at HS is something that concerns ORSC. School Board needs to discuss this involved topic.

Todd- Dr. Morse is considering the option of stainless steel bottles for the HS (branding, school pride), expanding hydration station outside on track, the bottom line issue is that the food stream gap is filled through the revenue of the vending machines and other items

John- Bottom line is to not have the food service pay for itself. It should be incorporated into the full budget "we are catering to the economics"

Dan- at the meeting the issue of vending machines- the money is counted on for Doris's revenue. Students are using the nutrition program more

Shelley- Doris has brought down her budget significantly and she can only reduce her expenses so much before the nutrition is affected and then less nutritional/fresh

*Green Team leader vacancy- will hopefully be accepted

* The work of the District's Science Committee of K-12 will hopefully start to identify/build the sustainability related goals through the curricula

Todd- we see this work as a process. It will be started through the whole District staff survey.

*Damion, a ORCSD grad and UNH senior, is our UNH intern and author of the District's Ecological Footprint for 2015-16. He will be adding a section this year on information he is researching about alternative energy options for the District.

Cristina will work on getting the Footprint on the school site

*Sus Club involvement with Powder Major "day" and the Community Dinner fundraiser was impressive and wonderfully organized by Sus Club students

* Recruitment efforts in community remains a challenge. Dr. Morse appreciate our efforts and the work all ORSC members do for the District

John- literature can be included in the environmental/sustainability lessons. Social studies is less involved in civics related to sustainability. "Lit and Land" course is offered through English Dept at HS.

C. Mast Way Civic Lessons - Maggie and MaryEllen

Maggie- MaryEllen and Maggie are working to define what civic and sustainability is for elementary children. They are considering calling civic work - service learning.

D. Wellness Committee- Tracy

Tracy- District Wellness met but discussion focused on the mental wellness.

Tracy will focus on production gardens across the District- start small with gardens and try to increase gardening into the curriculum

John- there is a connection between the practice of gardening and wellness, get outside, get off "screens." It's tricky to find parents who want to serve on this District committee

E. Summer HS "production" gardens for 2017- Maggie

Maggie- Will be organizing a meeting with Christina Felix, HS staff (Jon B. and Estie Ott) who use raised beds, and the new GT leader. Andrew Ogden, UNH lecturer, will be invited to meet also since he was very valuable last year with knowledge and seedlings.

Cristina- would like to see if Christina may be interested in managing MOH raised beds should they need oversight during the summer months. This option could be discussed after Maggie talks to her about this possibility. If so then compensation will have to be figured out.

F. Banning of plastic bags in York, Maine - Barry, Judy

Link offered by Barry: <http://www.byobyork.org/>

Maggie- NH hasn't "flat out" banned the use of plastic bags across the state

G. e-newsletter- Cristina

Emailed out by mid-February hopefully to parents and staff

H. HS Track waste stream, hydration station, concession stand waste?

Kristin- wondering about the new track area

Tracy- let's make an "igor" (waste station) for the track, concession stand

John- will call Marty Scarano to gather information about their waste stream station at the new stadium

Corey Parker and Jim R will be invited to our next Steering meeting so these topics of new track area can be discussed.

4. School Board Representative- Dan

Plastic bottles were discussed and tabled until after the budget work is done.

Finalized warrants. Began to start process of talking to Community about the efficiency of the Middle School currently (boilers failing, things are so old that parts need to be made). This is a long-range issue but needs to be started now with increasing priority in the future. Start time will be about 45 minutes later next year - it will be interesting to see if the drop off/pick-up car numbers will be different. Maybe bus usage will increase?

Todd- the MS facility will be a good opportunity for the consideration/incorporation of sustainability topics into the design.

2017-2018 a site and rough building plans to be worked on and maybe this would be when ORSC will be asked to help

5. UNH Intern, Damian Woodard

Met with Jim R about how to frame the new information into the Ecological Footprint.

Researching how high schools in the state are using alternative energy?

Cristina will work on finding an "educational" contact from ReVision for the Facilities solar installation project

6. Water bottle inquiry to School Board in November, 2016 - see notes above

7. Foss Manufacturing - "EcoThrow"

The cost of purchasing plastics from China is less than recycling (selling) ours here.

John- the situation with plastics may change should the relationship between the US and China deteriorate given the current political situation. Then maybe collected/recycled plastics would maybe need to stay in the US and Foss could continue the EcoThrow program

IV. New Business- none

V. Educational outreach events for 2016-17

A. Winter Farmer's Market- 1/28/17 and 3/11/17 from 10-2:00pm at Rollinsford and Exeter. Cristina will be there this coming Saturday with the tri-fold and ORSC information.

B. ORSC Brochure- will be "freshened up" by Cristina. Pictures are needed

VI. Closing Actions-

A. Proposed full meeting dates for 2016-2017 school year. In ORHS Conference Rm 120.

~~Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 7pm~~

~~Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7pm. Snow date: Thursday, January 26, 2017~~

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7pm

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7pm

B. Next Steering Meeting date: March 16, 2017 at 5pm TBD: but if available it will be ORHS Room 120

C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting:

VII. Adjournment 8:32 motion: Cristina second: Sue All approved.