

Minutes of the Meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group, 1/21/16

Present: Barbara Fraser, Deke Concklin, Maury Collins, Michael Iselin, Dave Upton.

The meeting came to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

The motion by Barbara Fraser, seconded by Deke Concklin that the Minutes of the Meetings of 12/8/15 be accepted as presented was approved by unanimous consent.

Dave explained to the group that he has come to believe that global warming, climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is the greatest challenge that mankind faces. He referred to Bill McKibben's documentary, *Do the Math*, in which Mr. McKibben reports that there is already enough petroleum in known reserves that, if all burned, would cause the temperature of our planet to exceed a tipping point at which warming would accelerate out of any possible control. Dave read a comment that he received in an email from Sally Coughlin, "I agree that climate change is the biggest threat facing us (not ISIS). Terrorism will get a lot worse if we muck up our planet!"

The group continued its discussion of ways in which to achieve both household and municipal energy conservation. The group agreed to develop a survey questionnaire that will allow interested people to calculate their household contribution to carbon emissions (carbon footprint). This questionnaire could also be used for our municipal buildings to see if we can achieve energy savings there. Dave has found a number of sites on-line that ask questions, regarding energy usage, that when answered result in a calculation and a report of the associated carbon emissions to our atmosphere. Dave will bring samples of some carbon footprint calculators to our next meeting.

Maury suggested that we plan a community forum to which we invite contractors who install solar PV systems. Doing so would provide an opportunity for people to learn about the financial and environmental benefits of solar PV. The group agreed and will continue to discuss plans for such a forum.

The next meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group is scheduled for February 18 at 7 pm in the Nelson Town Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Upton