

Minutes of the Meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group 4/23/15

Members present: Barbara Voymas, Barbara Fraser, Maury Collins, Deke Conklin, Max Nunnemaker, Dave Upton

Guests: Megan Straughen and David Voymas

Dave Upton called the meeting to order at 7:05.

The Minutes of the 4/16/15 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Dave U. reported that the Select Board had appointed Megan Straughen to the NSG contingent upon her acceptance of the appointment. Megan stated that she wished to defer accepting her appointment until she had more opportunity to become familiar with the work of the Group.

Dave U. presented a draft Press Release describing the mission of the NSG and its first speaker, David Voymas, his topic, and the time and place of David's presentation. Much discussion ensued relative to the content and the tone of the mission statement. General consensus was that the content should be nonspecific and that the tone should be nonthreatening. Megan suggested language as follows, "Our mission is to help the town of Nelson thrive, succeed, and cultivate social capital in a future which may have limited economic and natural resources." Barbara and David Voymas offered to draft a revised Press Release which would provide some background information about our first speaker and include Megan's language relative to the mission of the Group.

As part of our discussion relative to our mission statement, the Group discussed the book, *Transition Handbook From Oil Dependency to Local Resiliency* by Rob Hopkins and its guidelines for helping communities develop sustainable economies. From our brief review, it appears that this book can be very useful in helping guide us in our

efforts. Max Nunnemaker offered to purchase four copies. Barbra Fraser, Maury Collins, and Dave Upton will reimburse Max for the copy that he buys for them.

Maury Collins brought the Select Board's copy of the new SWRPC publication that describes the future of the economy in our region. Barbara Fraser took Maury's copy for review.

A brief discussion ensued relative to the actions that our neighboring towns might be taking toward making plans for futures with sustainable economies. Dave U. volunteered to contact SWRPC to inquire if they had any information in this regard.

The Group and David Voymas agreed on two possible dates for David's presentation, either June 4 or June 18. Dave U. will ask Edie Drinkwater if we can reserve the Town Hall for these dates.

All agreed that we would schedule our next meeting for 4/30/15 at 7:00 pm in the Meeting Room in the Library basement. We will finalize our Press Release and the date for David Voymas presentation at that time. We will also continue our discussion of where, when, and how we will advertise this event.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was agreed to by unanimous consent at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Upton