



Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 5:30PM
Downstairs Conference Room

—

In attendance: Chair Bob Desrochers, Councilor Kathy Rago, Councilor Paul Trudel.

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, Police Chief David Goldstein, Councilor George Dzujna, Attorney Chris Seufert, Carrie Portrie, John Beland, and members of the public.

Chair Desrochers opened the meeting at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

Salute to the flag was led by Councilor Dzujna.

Chair Desrochers moved that the Lead Action Committee topic be added to the agenda because the speakers were not able to attend the previous Legislative Committee meeting. A request to make this the first item on the agenda was also made. All in favor. Motion passed.

I. Lead Action

Attorney Chris Seufert introduced Carrie Portrie Lead Coalition Coordinator from NH Listens and also introduced John Beland Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Partnership for Public Health. Mr. Beland stated that his goal is to identify partners within the City of Franklin to work on this issue. New Hampshire Listens and Healthy Homes are hosting Knowledge and Action sharing sessions where the newly formed committee/coalition will meet to discuss objectives and goals etc. Clairmont NH is willing to come to a meeting and explain what their experience has been with their coalition and discuss the steps they took throughout their process of addressing this issue. Whoever is willing to serve on a coalition for Franklin would decide what the goal is and course of action. Maybe the goal for Franklin is just on educating the public. It would be up to the coalition.

Chair Desrochers stated that the cost of remediating lead in a home could cost the landlord thousands. Rents and other costs for the home owner would be significantly increased. Mr. Beland replied that it's possible that the coalition could

look for outside grants and other programs to help landlords remove Lead. Carrie mentioned that NH Listens helps communities talk about difficult issues. The new Lead Laws address the testing of children. This first step is partnership and information sharing. Learning Exchanges through the Endowment for Health have been scheduled. Upcoming meetings are on August 22nd and November 7th. Carrie also explained what coalition groups are made up of in other communities. Mr. Beland and Carrie are asking if the City of Franklin would like a seat at the table to discuss these types of issues and concerns and work together to stay ahead of the wave already coming.

Attorney Seufert stated that a Franklin Lead Coalition existed in years past and was looked at as a model for other communities. It fell apart in 2011-2012 when there was no further funding for the program.

Councilor Rago asked Attorney Seufert what progress was made at that point when the program stopped funding and the coalition ended. He replied that Dr. Friend made several Public Health Announcements, Jason Grevior paid to have that aired on the radio, a blood testing device, and supplies were purchased through a grant. Rehab projects were also completed through grants from Franklin Savings Bank and Northway Bank. Seufert stated that there are grant funds through the state that a landlord can apply for to help remove any Lead from the home.

Councilor Rago stated that she is concerned that the program starts up because there is grant money but what happens when it runs out. Is the City expected to pick up the tab, are strict laws placed on homeowners, or would the taxpayer have to pick up the tab.

Attorney Seufert stated that they are years away from any legislation being enforced where at this time, he would like to Franklin to have a seat at the table to bring forward these very concerns and sharing information.

Mr. Beland stated that maybe the focus is educating the landlord on how to maintain their property. Also educating the tenant on things they can do to prevent exposures.

Carrie suggested having someone who was possibly part of the coalition previously to join again to speak to what was done before.

Attorney Seufert would like to see a Council member, a member from the school side, and a member from public safety such as Fire.

Councilor Trudel requested that this presentation be provided to the school as well before jumping in. He would like to see full buy-in from the other areas in the City where representation would come from. He would also suggest that this topic be discussed with the entire City Council and ask if someone has the capacity to get involved with this. A request was made for Attorney Seufert, John Beland and Carrie

Portrie to reach out to the SAU office next and then share results from that at a City Council Meeting.

Mr. Beland stated that the Community Health Institute in Bow NH is compiling a report per region and he is hoping that it will be available for the August 22nd Informational meeting.

Councilor Trudel suggested to wait until after John, Carrie, and Chris meet with the School Board before moving this to City Council. The full impact will need to be considered as well. We need to comply with the state and also help landlords reduce their risks.

City Manager Milner stated that Chief Foss met with Mr. Beland already and they discussed the property maintenance codes and that educating landlords would be a good idea. If a committee is formed, Chief Foss wouldn't mind participating from an educational perspective.

Councilor Rago is concerned because earlier in this meeting, it was stated that the reasoning and explanation for seeking to create this committee was to gather information and change legislation if necessary but then later this evening, it was stated that it isn't about changing legislation as the laws are already in place.

Consensus was provided by the committee to update the City Council during the Committee Reports Update section on the next City Council meeting agenda and ask if a member of the City Council and Chief Foss would like to participate on the new Lead Action Committee.

City Manager Milner stated that she can also do an educational piece on the City's website as well.

II. No marijuana zones

An attendee from the last Legislative meeting brought this topic up but that attendee is not here tonight to provide any details so City Manager Milner will check around on who that was so it can be added to a future Legislative meeting.

III. Air BNB discussion

Councilor Trudel recommended tabling this topic because some supporting information was provided by Director Lewis but he was unable to attend this evening's meeting. The committee would like him to participate in this discussion.

Motion made by Chair Desrochers of tabling this discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Review Elected Official Code of Conduct

The committee discussed when the code of conduct should be reviewed. The code says

it will be reviewed annually but this schedule has not been followed over the past couple of years. The City Council can change the wording if they would like to or City Manager Milner will create a yearly reminder and make sure it gets done yearly going forward.

Councilor Trudel recommended adding it to the July City Council meeting and asking the City Council to approve it or suggest changes. It will be part of the Council Packet so the Council will have it ahead of time to review.

Motion made by Chair Desrochers to add the Code of Conduct to the July Meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

V. Other Business

Police Chief Goldstein asked if the “Walk/Don’t Walk” signs should be enforced.

Resident Janet Desrochers suggested making sure the “Walk” push buttons actually work before this is enforced. She witnessed it not working in an instance recently.

Chair Desrochers suggested that the Chief Goldstein use his discretion but the buttons should be checked first.

There was no further business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Trudel. Seconded by Councilor Rago. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo