



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes of Tuesday, April 26, 2022

5:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: SAC Members: Jennifer Forster, Julie Shannon, Kevin Harutunian (left early), Marshall Hook, Philip Kennedy, Andrew Prazar, and Thomas Warren; Other attendees: Residents: Zillie Bhuju, Janelle Pescatore, and Kathleen Yoh.

Meeting called to order at 5:08pm

GOVERNOR'S ORDER

Jenn announced that, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency announced by Governor Baker, this meeting would be conducted as a Virtual Meeting via ZOOM and as such, participation was remote. She then read the following:

"Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to watch or listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: Video conference (see log-in information on the agenda on the website.) No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Topsfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting."

II. REVIEW MINUTES FROM 3/15/2022 MEETING

1. Vote to approve Minutes -Approved

III. SAC UPDATES

1. Earth Day/Town Clean-up 4/30

- a. Janelle- update-will be at town hall from 9-11 giving out plastic bags and tickets to go to Zumi's for a snack. There is a SignUp Genius to sign up
- b. Jenn-will be updating a sign frame to say something about town clean-up day to take pics and post on social media, solar bench may be up
- c. Kevin-solar bench will be up end of week/month, they need to have a tutorial before it is up

- d. Zillie- asked if should circle back from elementary school about having students come and volunteer and Zumi's bakery is going to supply cookies for kids and going to look into allergy friendly options

2. Plastic bag ban compliance

- a. Jenn-Kevin was going to follow up with Lelias: will follow up with Kevin

3. Green Future Act

- a. Jenn-members should have received Green Future Act and question is whether or not to bring the resolution to select board for consideration
- b. Tom- walked through document-reducing emissions goals by timelines
 - i. A bond program for states to raise revenue to hit goals
 - ii. Offering cash dividends for residents, and state to help residents help hit goals
 - iii. Pitched as a tool in the tool box and decide what tools to use and which will be added to the bills and by supporting at a town level helps move the ball forward in climate change efforts and tools they would be using
 - iv. Town of Salem has passed and many others are supporting
 - v. Cites this is a resolution and reiterates fossil fuels contributes to climate change, and if we support MA efforts it trickles down to our level and the funding needed to get there. Increasing carbon producing fees
 - vi. Next Step- transportation committees voting in May which we may or may not be in time for but it could be delay and may be able to get in time for that
 - Jenn- asks Marshall's thoughts about going next step to present to Select Board
 - Marshall- we should take a vote to support and someone from this board would need to be at the meeting to present this. Marshall offers insight on another presentation that was brought to the board was not approved because of money and support needed. But we may be in a better position
 - Andrew motions to have the Green Future Act brought before Town Select Board
 - Phil- seconds
- c. **All members vote to support resolution**
 - Tom offers to attend Select Board meeting to introduce the resolution.

4. Elementary Solar Project

- a. Jenn- will share in Brad's absence the update: Brad has attempted to reach out to contacts about presenting more thoroughly but has not been able to get that meeting scheduled as of yet. When he does we will have an ad hoc meeting for that. Andrew will bring to school committee and Marshall to select board
- b. Andrew- Elementary School Committee receptive but there may be some logistical hurdles to get over: going out to bid, the materials needing to be drilled into roof...etc. Provided that all of the logistics being handled he feels we would have support of school committee

- c. Marshall- has not yet been able to present to the select board but feels that the nature of the board there will be many questions but feels they will be open to this discussion

5. Other items

- a. Tom- was going to look into noise rules- he looked at Topsfield and State of MA- Topsfield has some ordinance but nothing specifically towards gas powered equipment. State of MA has ordinances more general and even with that it seemed to be high threshold for an issue-bottom line current leaf blowing are well within the law
 - i. Confirmed that Lexington, Cambridge has ordinances in place that we can look into further for towns that have something like this in place
 - ii. Phil-are we looking more into noise pollution or the use of gas powered
 - iii. Jenn- I think we are interested in the noise ordinances are and perhaps encourage people to choose equipment that are more environmentally friendly

IV. CONTINUE IDENTIFYING SAC PRIORITIES

1. Tom List (ecological best practices):

- a. No watering
- b. Plant Clover instead of grass
- c. no fertilizers/insecticides
- d. no burning of brush,
- e. planting native plants that encourage pollinators
- f. Rain Barrels
 - Jenn-saw that some towns are offering rain barrels
 - Phil-towns offering rain barrels at a discount
 - Julie-City of Chelsea is offering a program and Jenn asked if could share email
 - Zillie-remembers Topsfield offered something in the past

2. Andrew List:

- a. Water education
- b. Education to schools how we can have town bldgs to be more
- c. Transition fleets to electric
- d. Waste eversion

3. Phil List

- a. Styrofoam reduction/recycling
- b. Trees-bylaw tree maintenance plans
- c. Replanting plans-not sure what the plan is but would look into it
 - Zillie thinks she has a contact that may know who can reach out to and Phil will follow up
- d. Climate change preparedness

4. Marshall List

- a. Survey trees threat to powerlines, and put in money to plant trees (not a 1 for 1- remove and plant, town is way behind on taking down trees that are taking down and there is no money)
- b. EV police car- will be a fight -school buses around town and electric cars and police,
- c. Julie Shannon- asked if we are part of Tree City USA, Marshall said something we could look into. Zillie- recommended reaching out to Martha Morrison- garden club she may know

5. Julie List

- a. Town plan for handling invasive vines/plants
 - Working with Mary-Ellen Dixon on cutting invasive vines in state parks currently. We meet up every Thursday morning to cut in state parks in the area and are going to be moving to educational hikes to identify native plants and the importance of removing non-native invasive bitter-sweet vines
 - Zillie added that MASCO students need volunteer hours so they may be able to help
 - Zillie-Maybe educate Landscapers on promoting more native plant options
- b. Topsfield being part of TreeCity USA

6. Jenn List

- a. Composting
- b. Rain barrels
- c. Waste diversion - JRM contract, weekly recycling

7. Zillie List

- a. JRM contracting coming up-hopefully add weekly recycling, curbside composting
- b. Getting out there to network with other people in the area

8. Brad list

- a. Via email or at next meeting

V. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN

Kevin announced the solar bench will be installed in town.

Next meeting to continue conversation re: SAC priorities.

At 6:10 PM, Andrew made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and it passed unanimously with a roll call vote:

Andrew – Aye

Jenn – Aye

Julie – Aye

Marshall – Aye

Phil – Aye

Tom – Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Bissell – SAC Clerk

DOCUMENTS

None

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 18-25, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.