



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Minutes of Tuesday, August 16, 2022
4:41PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: SAC Members: Jennifer Forster, Julie Shannon, Brad Bissell, Kevin Harutunian, Marshall Hook, Philip Kennedy; Other attendees: Byron Woodmann, Zillie Bhuj, Jack Bergersen, Janelle Pescatore, Rafael McDonald, and Kathleen Yoh.

Meeting called to order at 4:41pm

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 4/26/2022 MEETING

1. Vote to approve Minutes -Approved

III. SAC UPDATES

1. Elementary Solar Project

Brad Introduced Byron Woodmann of Solect Energy.

Jen asked to layout proposal with a general overview:

Power Options Program is the non-profit that takes care of procurement. Each town is not obligated to do procurement via MA general Law. Power Options takes care of RFP and hiring outside consultant. Topsfield would become a member of Power Options and then move forward with Solect Energy. Solect Energy was chosen as Solar Provider by State Agency.

Steward School - Savings of \$110k over 20 years
Proctor 120k - Savings \$200K over 20 years

Roof Warranty remains in effect for both projects.

Structural Engineer via Solect Energy would deal with all the structural issues with the current roof. Structural planning has not been completed - cost is covered by Solect Energy

Process: Town would sign a non-binding letter of intent to move forward with Solect Energy and join Power Options program.

Kevin notes that School Committee would have control of the contract/ 20 year Power Purchase Agreement.

Zille - What happened after 20 years?

Town can extend the agreement, buy the system, or removed at no cost.

Any projects completed on the ground like Endicott?

Solect built the system at Endicott. Usually do roof projects but will do parking covering, ground mounted, etc.

Jenn - How much energy is produced?

Production vs consumption is set to be 60-70%. Does not cover all power consumed in purpose. That way town is not over spending on power it doesn't use.

As with grid tied solar systems, if the grid goes down then the solar cuts off. School would still need to use Generator, etc.

Byron is willing to set up follow-up meeting to discuss with School Board and Select Committee.

2. Master Plan Steering Committee

Kevin explains the overview of the Master Plan Steering Committee. State has provided a grant to create a Master Plan for the town of Topsfield. A master plan is the most transformative item that can be done for the community. Many towns are including sustainability as a large portion of the plan. Important for the community to include sustainability in all portions of the plan.

Starting to create a Steering Committee from members of the community, to help the consultant and gain insight from the community. Looking for a member from the SAC to help add the sustainability focus, and provide feedback to the SAC.

3. JRM Trash / Recycling Contract

JRM sold to Republic, who is looking to modify the contract. Current Contract expires at the end of 2023.

Town currently pays a flat fee for trash removal, which is unusual. New contracts will be double, or triple, based on increases in cost. Kevin trying to keep cost down; however, it will have a significant impact to the town's budget.

Looking for a member of the SAC to help with the JRM contract if interested. Looking for input on what more we can do to best position the town in the future.

Working with MA DEP to share info with external communities and help with contracts / recycling / composting.

Currently there is no incentive to educate the community, looking for the SAC to help with that.

Zille - asked if there was a benefit to combining with other towns for the contract?

Yes, but companies are looking for automated pickup. Upfront cost involved by the company that is amortized over the contract. Cost is directly affected by weight, therefore recycling and compost is very important.

Zille- Brought up pay as you throw which could increase people using compost and increased recycling.

Composting Expansion?

Black Earth is the current provider.

20% of tonnage was removed from the trash stream with compost
Beverly was opt-in but gave money back on their trash fees if the household composted.

Need to look at the future options for Composting.

4. Tomato Festival September 10

Looking for Members to help with the effort and community education

5. General Updates from Kevin

Solar Bench is out and people are using it.

Police still good with EV.

Solar lights still operating efficiently.

IV. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN

At 6:02 PM, Marshall made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and it passed unanimously with a roll call vote:

Andrew – Aye

Brad – Aye

Jenn – Aye

Julie – Aye

Marshall – Aye

Phil – 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.