



**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**Minutes of Tuesday, September 29, 2022**  
**10:30AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Attendees: SAC Members: Jennifer Forster, Julie Shannon, Brad Bissell, Kevin Harutunian, Philip Kennedy, Rafael McDonald, Andrew Prazar, Thomas Warren;  
Other attendees: Tyler Finnegan, Zillie Bhuj, and Kathleen Yoh.

Meeting called to order at 10:38AM

**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. Introduction of new member**

- a. Rafael McDonald introduced himself to SAC and background.

**III. REVIEW MINUTES FROM 8/16/2022 MEETING**

- a. Vote to approve Minutes - Approved

**IV. SCHOOL SOLAR PROJECT NEXT STEPS**

Discussed need for approval from Select Board and need for solid plan prior to going to School Committee. School committee had broad support but wants specifics. Discussed need for Superintendent briefing.

Actions:

- Go to Solect Energy for updated pricing plan - Brad
- Research other Providers for Municipal Solar - Brad
- Brief Superintendent - Kevin

## **V. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **a. JRM Contract Updates**

- i. Introduced Tyler Finnegan of Republic Services and outlined prior meetings/conversations and priority of education in the community
- ii. Tyler Finnegan - tfinnegan@republicservices.com
  - 1. Discussed JRM acquisition and the future for Topsfield
    - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Trash Hauling in Country
  - 2. Introduced Republic
    - a. Showed Slide Deck regarding company and plan
    - b. Sustainability Goals
    - c. Environmental Services Group
    - d. Swapping to EV fleet
    - e. Opening Plastic Polymer Center to Recycle #1, #2, & #5 plastics
  - 3. Mattress/ Textile Recycling – No longer allowed to throw these items in Trash, but no direct method of recycling with Republic.
  - 4. Tour of Recycling Center – SAC will plan on tour timing
  - 5. Expanding Recycling Program? Looking at the contract and where the community can be more efficient and leverage Republic's size
  - 6. Grants? – What are timelines and criteria?  
<https://www.republicservices.com/communities/charitable-giving>
  - 7. Zille – Asked question regarding education outreach
    - a. Method to provide quality raw material to Republic
    - b. Indicated possible community education at playground
  - 8. Jen – Asked who to Contact with regards to Education?
    - a. Tyler or Gretchen with Republic.
  - 9. Kevin – Looking for someone to support contract working group.  
Meeting Nov 2.

### **b. Composting Program**

- i. Indirect impact to Trash/Recycling removes ~20% of material in trash.
  - 1. Financial benefit to Town with reduced tipping fees.
- ii. Would like to have SAC input on potential program

## **VI. Collaboration with other municipalities**

- i. Green Beverly suggested that we could have a joint meeting to share knowledge. Zille will contact Ipswich see if we can do the same.

## **VII. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN**

At 11:50 AM, Phil made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and it passed unanimously with a roll call vote:

Andrew – Aye  
Brad – Aye  
Jenn – Aye  
Julie – Aye  
Kevin – Aye  
Phil – Aye  
Rafael – Not present at end of meeting  
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.