



**Thursday, October 13, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Eusden, Chair
Myra Sessions, Vice Chair
Robin Greenberg, Secretary
Sean Cash
Tiana Veldwisch
Chris Lewis
Thomas Boettcher, WMGLD rep
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep
Eileen Colleran, School Comm. rep

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Noren
Ann Waitt, DPW rep proxy
Joe Conway, DPW rep

----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m by M. Eusden.
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

Public Participation

No comments

Approval of Minutes

R. Greenberg motion for approval of September meeting minutes. J. Smith-Galvin second. Motion passed.

ESC Tabling at Farmers Market & Town Day Recap

ESC had tables at October 1st Farmers Market. M. Eusden has sent the collected pouches to TerraCycle. ESC at October 8th Town Day was well received. At both events, names of volunteers were collected.

For the upcoming Wakefield 101 event, it was suggested that the DPW provide an iPad for folks to sign up for Black Earth on the spot, to be determined if this is feasible.

ESC Student Member Solicitation

The public solicitation for student members is listed on town website and will be posted in the Daily Item. J. Smith-Galvin suggested that it also be posted on the Patch. The deadlines for letters of interest are due October 28th. ESC members will promote. M Session will promote when she attends the Warrior Clean Up Crew event on Saturday.



Overview of Conservation Commission

Judy Green joined the meeting to talk about the town’s Conservation Commission (ConComm). The group consists of seven voting members, one non-voting member and they are supported by her, two part-time agents. “The Commission is responsible for applying the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) to building, renovation, and landscaping projects which may affect protected resources.” Wakefield has no town wetland by-law which is atypical compared to our surrounding communities. ConComm has two standing policies, one regarding a 25 ft wetland setback to protect the critical habitat area and another on tree removal. They also manage open spaces and natural resources in town. They are currently working to update Open Space plan which include trail mapping.

ConComm needs assistance on messaging, including highlighting resources and open areas available in town.

Northeast Metro Tech School (NEMT) project has started their ConComm permit process.

Planning Board and ConComm has recently started having joint meetings. Projects typical go through Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and ConComm permitting process separately so discussions are done in isolation, not coordinated.

ESC suggested that wetland science could be introduced in the schools, i.e. a STEM theme, to get more folks aware of their value. Recently, WMHS tested Lake Quannapowitt as part of their science class.

ConComm is working on amending their website to provide more resources. Our neighboring towns have great examples of successful raingardens and shade trees with accommodations to avoid roots buckling sidewalks in public ways. They might want to add similar content to their site.

T. Veldwisch is going to share links on ConComm efforts on ESC’s website.

Waste Reduction Subcommittee

M. Eusden reported that the subcommittee created a survey for local businesses to gauge their compliance with town waste reduction bylaws as well as their interest in engaging in various sustainability initiatives at their business. The survey was distributed by Chamber of Commerce to their members.. To date, they received nine responses. Of those responses, many are interested in learning more about WMGLD initiatives that were shared in the survey. The subcommittee is interested in expanding the distribution of the survey to get more Wakefield business responses.

One of their next steps is submitting a grant application to fund composting at the elementary schools.

Land Protection Subcommittee

S. Cash shared that they working with J. Green on the Open Space Plan. They hope to find volunteers to help with trail maintenance and litter clean up. Next steps

include to reach out to other towns' similar groups to understand how they have regular trail maintenance efforts, creation of trail maps, and more. He personally likes All Trails as a place to see trail maps.

The subcommittee is also talking about trees. Cambridge recently did canopy tree mapping with University of Vermont. Boston has also done a tree survey. DPW is working on a tree inventory. T. Veldwisch shared that she purchased a CommuniTree but she has not heard a status of planting it.

The state is looking to update shade tree removal in public ways rules. The town is also looking to reevaluate town's process when public trees need to be removed. R. Greenberg offered to talk with J. Smith-Galvin and others on her recent experience with public tree hearing completed in another community.

Building Efficiency

Northeast Metro Tech School (NEMT) recently had a groundbreaking ceremony for the project

Permanent Building Committee hosted community meeting on Wakefield Memorial High School's (WMHS) project. The presentation covered some sustainability and design features. The video is available on the project's website. Their October community meeting will provide cost information.

Volunteer Coordination

Coordinator not available at the meeting.

GHG Inventory

C. Lewis shared the subcommittee discussed their methodology for the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. They selected to use MAPC tool which is used by Melrose, Natick, and others. They are using Mass Energy Insights as a resource. 2021 will be their baseline year.

Green Communities

J. Smith-Galvin reported that state review process of our Green Communities application continues.

Community Education

T. Veldwisch are looking to add new info and resources on the ESC page on the town website. She hopes that the site will be updated prior to Wakefield 101 event. The committee continues to accept suggestions on social media posting ideas.

Student Member Update

ESC is awaiting appointment of member liaisons.

School Committee Liaison Update

E. Colleran shared that a School Committee's Oct 25th meeting, the new food school food services director will be attending. She will talk with him about composting plans and not using Styrofoam trays. Senator Lewis is also scheduled to attend the meeting to talk about state/ MSBA reimbursement for the high school project.

At a recent SC meeting, Leftfield, the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) presented the high school project

ESC will be doing pumpkin collection at the elementary schools on November 9th. She will help spread out the word at the schools.

DPW Member Update

Member not available

Town Council Liaison Update

J. Smith-Galvin shared that the SafeRoutes to School program is now expanded to the high school because the state modified the rules to allow them. Now, all K12 schools have signed onto the program. The town is now seeking state grant funding for it.

In the DPW presentation during last night’s TC meeting, DPW presented the impact of Black Earth, sidewalk composting in Wakefield. Having this compost system has saved the town 201 tons of waste equaling over \$20K. M. Session suggested that money saved by the town should be used to refund to residents that did the compost. Other suggested that the money could be used to provide financial assistant for lower income residents to participation in the program or assist multi-unit housing developments. Waste Reduction subcommittee will offer suggestions at a future meeting. The town has only 21 set up kits available.

Also at the meeting, DPW reported that 14.4 tons of cardboard had been recycled at the Pit. Collected cardboard has had no contamination. J. Smith-Galvin will ask DPW if it can offer cardboard container during the winter when the pit is seasonally closed.

The Town has issued public notice on new state law prohibiting disposal of mattresses and textiles. New practices and new fees start on November 1st.

Upcoming Events:

- October 18th Community Meeting zoom on the high school
- October 19th Master Plan presentation. This is only in person but a post event online survey and information will be available.
- October 20th Wakefield 101 is also in person

WMGLD Liaison Update

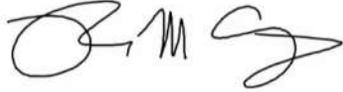
T. Boettcher shared that the department is developing an electric vehicle rate for connected homes.

He gave comparison summary of proposed state energy codes and previously discussed potential town PV (solar panel) and EVSE (electrical vehicle supply equipment) by-laws. He reminded the committee that the Specialized Opt-in code will need to be voted in by Town Meeting but the new Stretch Code will apply to Wakefield automatically. He recommends that town plan to include Specialize Opt-in code at spring 2023 Town Meeting, assuming that state approves the code prior to it and wait on creating town by-laws.

Next Meeting The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, at 7pm.

Committee Meeting Adjournment M. Session motioned to adjourn. T. Veldwisch second. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -