



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 7, 2020
5:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting #831 4154 0969

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rob Darnell, Chair
Robin Greenberg, Recording Secretary
Myra Sessions
Joe Conway, DPW rep (voting rep)
Ann Waitt, DPW rep
Tom Boettcher, WMGLD rep
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep
Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison
Addie Festel, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair
Cameron Sweeney, Student Liaison
Liz Sheridan, Student Liaison

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

Call to Order Public Participation

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by R. Darnell.
No comment

Approval of Minutes, September 2020

R. Greenberg motion for approval of meetings. S. Veilleux second. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Articles

Two articles were submitted as citizen articles for Spring Town Meeting. R. Darnell asked the ESC to discuss the language of articles and asked if ESC would submit them to Town Meeting or if they would be submitted as citizen petitions.

Plastic Bag Reduction Warrant Article

The committee reviewed the current town plastic bag reduction language and the language of the article as they were submitted for Spring 2020 Town Meeting. The following include amendments to the article:

1. Extends ban to all levels of plastic bags in town (no thicker bags, i.e. used at CVS, non-single use), eliminates thin-film, and promote the use of reusable bags.
2. Extends ban to restaurant take-out plastic bags.
3. Prohibits businesses from handing out plastic drinking straws without customer request with the exception of nursing homes and medical situations.
4. Prohibits businesses from hanging out plastic utensils without customer request.



5. Amends reusable checkout bag definition using the Town of Melrose's Reusable Checkout Bag and allows compostable plastic if it meets standard ASTM D6400.
6. Defines effective date of June 30, 2021.
7. Renames the by-law to "Plastic Reduction"
8. Includes language on hardship to be reviewed and granted by the Town Administrator.

J. Smith-Galvin motioned to amend §154-10 "Plastic Bag reduction" as presented and that it would be brought to Town Meeting by the ESC, not a citizen petition. M. Sessions second. Motion passed.

Next step will be that it would be reviewed by the Finance Committee, because it includes fees, and also Town Council.

**Sustainable Food
Containers and
Packaging
Warrant Article**

Melissa Eusden brought "Article 27" as a petition as a citizen warrant petition to the Spring 2020 Town Meeting. Her goal was to reduce use Styrofoam, reduce waste associated with it, emission of manufacturing of it, and reduce litter when not disposed of properly. The petition calls for the amendment to the town General Bylaws of §192.

The committee reviewed the language of the article as they were submitted for Spring 2020 Town Meeting. The following include amendments to the article:

1. Enforcement by the Town Administrator in lieu of the Director of the Health Department.
2. Add hardship language.

This change would apply to schools. S. Veilleux noted that at the Galvin, the only school currently offering hot food this school year has already eliminated Styrofoam trays.

J. Smith-Galvin has talked with Chamber of Commerce and Main Streets about this issue. Others in the committee noted they have also discussed it with town businesses. Business owners noted that they want equal requirements across businesses.

ESC agreed that it will make best efforts to work with the town and the businesses on making the change, i.e. create Best Practices suggestions for businesses as alternates to Styrofoam and advertise green businesses. J. Smith-Galvin and Melissa Eusden suggested marketing and advertising 'green restaurants'. There was discussion on providing a group to help support Chamber and help with transition.

This change would apply to businesses at one day events, i.e. Festival by the Lake.

ESC discussed the effective date. M. Sessions motioned for the article to keep the June 30 2020 date. J. Smith-Galvin second. The motion passed.

J. Smith-Galvin motioned to amend §192 as presented and that it would be brought to Town Meeting by the ESC, not a citizen petition. M. Sessions second. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting

The committee briefly talked about its presentation to the Town Meeting. The committee will look at cost impacts to businesses, safety, and environmental benefits.

Upcoming Town Events

On October 22, 2020, MWGLD will host a virtual info meeting about their new remate offering, Sense Home Energy Monitor.

On October 29, 2020, Conservation Commission will be hosting a virtual info meeting about exterior light pollution and its environmental impact.

On October 30, J. Smith-Galvin will be meeting with town departments about Green Communities Act.

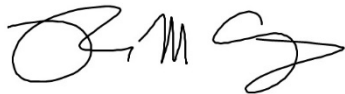
Next Meetings

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is to be determined.

Committee Meeting Adjournment

R. Darnell motion to adjourn. R. Greenberg second. R. Darnell performed roll call for approve to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary