



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 10, 2023
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Eusden, Chair
Tiana Veldwisch, Vice Chair
Robin Greenberg, Clerk
Chris Lewis
Lillian Guinther
Steffin Spears
Christina Olivieri
Ann Waitt, DPW rep proxy
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Conway, DPW rep
Thomas Boettcher, WMGLD rep
Amy Leeman, School Comm. rep

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m by M. Eusden.
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

Public Participation

Approval of Minutes

R. Greenberg motion. T. Veldwisch second. Motion passed to approve the July 2023 meeting minutes.

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP)

Judy Green, Wakefield's Conservation Commission (ConComm) Secretary, introduced Kellie King and Gabby Queenan of Horsley Witten Group, consultants to the Wakefield Conservation Commission. They are working on Wakefield's Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Discussion also included Thomas Lucey and Joseph Price, members of Wakefield's ZBA and Haley Ballou, ConComm Commissioner and member of the Open Space and Recreation committee.

The OSRP covers public and private land that is undeveloped for public access and outdoor recreation space. The OSRP is intended to be a long-term policy guidance document for the town. Having a current OSRP is often required document in some grant and funding applications.

As part of development of the plan, the town has an open survey on the issue. The survey will be open until Sept 1st. As of last week, they received about 150 submissions. The group hopes to submit the OSRP to the state for review and approval this fall.



A common theme heard during the development of the OSRP and Town Master Plan is residents' desire to preserve and protect open space.

The ESC had an open discussion with the OSRP representative. Topics discussed included:

- Seen growth in residents interested in birding
- Need for community gardens
- Support of land swaps and making "pocket parks"
- Encourage converting paved areas and/or pervious surfaces into planting areas with native plants that support pollinators, require less water demand, low maintenance, for example rain gardens
- Consideration of ADA/ Universal Design improvements at current and future open spaces
- Including a guidance document about open space in permit applications

ConComm is planning a presentation on rain gardens in the near future.

The group's will next to go to their Steering Committee to schedule next public event which might be in September or October. On August 26th, Judy will be at Farmers Market to talk about the plan.

Specialized Opt-In Stretch Code

J. Smith-Galvin motioned for ESC to bring forward a warrant article for the fall 2023 Town Meeting to seek approval of Specialized Opt-in Stretch Code. C. Lewis second. Motion passed. A working group will present a draft of the warrant language at the September ESC meeting.

Waste Reduction Subcommittee

M. Eusden and group continues to work on the Wakefield Green Business program. They have a draft program incorporating other examples of municipal's programs. Their plan is to offer a sign/ sticker to business if they meet their standards along with designation as a Green Business and promotion of this achievement. They hope to present it at Chamber of Commerce in the near future to get support and feedback on the proposed program. The program will be presented at a future ESC.

M. Eusden and T. Veldwisch met with Re:Dish, a business that offers reusable dishes like a laundry service. They could be an option in the future for local businesses or schools.

Building Efficiency Subcommittee

R. Greenberg seeks suggestions on projects or advocacy efforts for this subcommittee. Suggestions included: study solar panels on the library. J. Smith-Galvin noted that programming at the Senior Center is being studied to see if there is a way to better utilize the facility. Renovation may be required to meet the needs of the additional programs.

GHG Inventory / Green

S. Spears joined subcommittee. C. Lewis shared that the subcommittee is reaching out to MAPC. They are looking for next step to create a community-wide Community Action Plan.

**Communities
Subcommittee**

For the town's Green Communities' projects, first project is replacement of the Town Hall's lighting to LED. Materials have been ordered and they hope to have an installation update next month.

**Community
Education
Subcommittee**

The plan is the EV showcase to be on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at the Veteran's Field parking lot. They are working to get a permit via town portal. As of the meeting, seven owners have expressed interest in participating and they hope to have more. Electric bikes are welcome.

They have had lots of great engagement on a recent social media post about black swallow-wort, an invasion, aggressive plant. A. Waitt is working with DPW to answer the question on removal of the plant when observed on public land.

**School
Committee
Liaison Update**

Representative not present

**DPW Liaison
Update**

Wakefield filled up the first metal recycling bin in about a week. It was valued at \$187.40. The Pit's cardboard container gets emptied approximately every week with 500-600 lbs. A. Waitt continues to work on having a Christmas string light collection bin this winter.

**Town Council
Liaison Update**

J. Smith-Galvin shared that in September or October, the bike ped plan will be presented. To request the town's water bottle filling truck at events, submit a request via the Town's Event request portal.

J. Smith-Galvin provided a brief update to MBTA Multi-Family Zoning working group's process. A presentation will be made this fall to the ESC.

**WMGLD Liaison
Update
Next Meeting**

Representative not present

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7pm.

**Committee
Meeting
Adjournment**

R. Greenberg motioned to adjourn. J. Smith-Galvin second. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Clerk

Attachments: -