



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 10, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Eusden, Chair
Robin Greenberg, Secretary
Sean Cash
Tiana Veldwisch
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep
Dan Noren
Eileen Colleran, School Comm. rep

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Myra Sessions, Vice Chair
Chris Lewis
Thomas Boettcher, WMGLD rep
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

Paul Rybicki and Linda Ireland shared their thoughts on the Northeast Metro Tech School building project with the committee.

Approval of Minutes

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

Pumpkin & Candy Wrapper Collection Recap

ESC successfully collected almost 400 pumpkins from the four elementary schools. They were then taken by Black Earth Compost. The participation in candy wrapper collection was limited. The box will remain at Town Hall until it is full.

Recycling Discussion with Republic Services

Gretchen Carey, Caitlin Smith, and Dan Higgins from Republic Services answered ESC's questions about recycling in Wakefield.

They noted that there is a need to reduce the amount of contamination in the recycling bins but there has been improvement over the years. Republic has a higher bar on avoiding contamination than other collection companies.

Republic offers sources from their national website <https://recyclingsimplified.com>. Videos from the site can be used for education purposes including running on local access channels.

Top offenders of problematic items found in recycling includes: Food, plastic bags, plastic bins, and "tanglers" like Christmas lights, textiles, and gift-wrapping



ribbons. Dangerous items in recycling bins include: batteries, gas tanks, and tanglers.

Gretchen offered to present at a public town event about recycling. Her presentation which explains why or why not certain items should be recycled is about an hour long.

Gretchen's podcast: <https://massrecycle.org/resources/podcast/feed/podcast/>

For multi-family and commercial properties, Gretchen recommends that residents contact their property manager to request recycling collection.

Republic has 2030 Sustainability Goals that includes reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG), purchase of electric vehicles, reuse of natural gas that comes from landfills, and work to increase reuse options for recycled plastics (plastic polymer center)

Wakefield going to weekly recycling was discussed. What is the GHG impact to have additional trucks conduct the pickup. Could the town offer 65-gal recycling totes, same size of trash toter, as way to promote more recycling.?

Gretchen will share recycling holiday tips to be shared on our social media site.

**Waste Reduction
Subcommittee**

The subcommittee's business survey is being shared with wider respondents to hope for more responses.

M. Eusden has no news on compost grant application.

At Galvin, there are now new sticker recycling signs on the collection bins and more education at school is pending.

Erin Kokinda met with health inspectors about the town by-laws. TBC on the status of renewing by-law waivers.

**Land Protection
Subcommittee**

S. Cash shared that Conservation Commission has drafted a Conservation Steward handbook for the Town. As a Conservation Steward, a person would be trained on minor trail maintenance. ESC will recruit folks to apply when program starts.

The committee talked about Northeast Vocational School project and they are trying to understand of ConComm's next steps.

**Building
Efficiency**

R. Greenberg shared that the next Wakefield Memorial Building Committee meeting and public forum is Nov 14th with public tours being offered around the school.

**Volunteer
Coordination**

No update

GHG Inventory	No update
Green Communities	J. Smith-Galvin will follow up with state since no news on GSA application has been received to date.
Community Education	<p>T. Veldwisch shared that ESC has updated Programs and Helpful Tips on our website. https://www.wakefield.ma.us/environmental-sustainability-committee/pages/programs-and-helpful-tips</p> <p>S. Cash is working to email distribution list for news based on addresses received to date.</p>
Student Member Update	ESC members' recommendations on the student member were sent to Sherri. Applications will be reviewed at the next Town Council meeting.
School Committee Liaison Update	At the last School Committee meeting, new school district Food Service Director Dustin O'Brien made a presentation. He said that using greenware would be an estimated \$500K add to the budget. In the meantime, Galvin is back to using Styrofoam trays. E. Colleran will see if Dustin can join the January ESC meeting.
DPW Member Update	No update
Town Council Liaison Update	WMGLD's energy park easement request is a warrant article at the November 19 th Town Meeting. J. Smith-Galvin noted that the town Master Plan survey closes next month.
WMGLD Liaison Update	No update
Next Meeting	The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, at 7pm.
Committee Meeting Adjournment	D. Noren motioned to adjourn. J. Smith-Galvin second. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -