

Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee
Public Safety Building Community Room
April 4, 2019

Attendance:

Members in attendance: Rob Darnell, Robin Greenberg, Mary Hajjar, Jennifer Kallay (WMGLD), Myra Sessions, Rick Stinson (DPW), Julie Smith-Galvin (Town Council)

Members absent: Anne Fortier (School Committee)

Public Guests: Paul Reavis (Town Planner), Joe Conway (DPW), Chief Richard Smith (Wakefield Police Department)

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Chief Richard Smith welcomed the Committee and guests to the first meeting of the newly formed committee. He shared Wakefield Police Departments sustainability efforts including the use of bicycles and motorcycles for certain patrols, the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles when practical and being aware of electricity use in a building that operates 24/7.

Members introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds, skills and interest in the committee.

Members discussed other town committees and organization in which there may be overlap and synergies with the Environmental Sustainability Committee's efforts including: Conservation Commission (wetlands), Advisory Board of Public Works (water, sewer, trash/recycling), WMGLD (electricity, gas), Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning (infrastructure, land), Friends of Lake Quannapowitt (lake), Sustainable Wakefield. There was some interest in learning more about the roles of these committee and how to collaborate.

Jennifer Kallay of the WMGLD gave a summary of the Gas & Light Department's strategic retreat and plans to complete a town-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory. She will continue to report on its progress.

Members brainstormed issues and opportunities that may fall within the Committee's mission and how to incorporate awareness raising, events and policy initiatives into the work. Topics discussed included:

- Developing resources and events for citizens (i.e. Green up Day, Community Yard Sale)
- Assisting with NPDES – pollutant discharge efforts
- Exploring sustainable transportation options, like electric buses, shared vehicles, EV chargers
- Solar including community solar
- Recycling challenges and opportunities at schools, condos, curbside pickup options, expansion of Nahant Street yard-waste site
- Reduction of plastic – bags, bottles, straws

- Food waste disposal
- Buildings and building codes
- Walkability
- Urban forestry program – Tree inventory, native species -
- Permeable asphalt

Reviewed basics of Open Meeting Law.

Next meeting set for Thursday, May 9th.

Meeting adjourned.