



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 11, 2019

7:00 P.M.

Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

DRAFT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Rob Darnell, Chair
 Robin Greenberg, Secretary
 Myra Sessions
 Julie Smith-Galvin
 Jennifer Kallay
 Joe Conway, DPW Rep

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
 Ann Fortier
 Mary Hajer, Vice Chair

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

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Participation Carol Zoubek requested assistance from ESC regarding hydroseeding the First Baptist Church of Wakefield property. A town administrator notified the church that s/he wants the vacant site hydroseeded with grass asap. DPW has been contacted to turn on the property's water. Committee members noted that it will be hard to grow grass in the summer. Grass seed will likely be dormmate until cooler weather. Carol will find out whom in town is making the request for immediate seeding and notify R. Darnell.

Carol mentioned that Melrose asking for businesses to stop automatically giving out straws. R. Greenberg mentioned that in their 2019 spring Town Meeting, Chelmsford passed this type of straw restriction with exclusions.

Carol mentioned that there is state bill (H.771) regarding plastic bags that would eliminate town's ability to charge for thicker plastic and other changes. J. Smith-Galvin noted that CVS no longer collects single-use bags for recycling. There is no longer a collection center at Shaw's.

Approval of Minutes - June 2019 To be reviewed and voted in August meeting.

Drafting Planning Document Planning Document to be discussed at August meeting.

Festival by the Lake

- Informal survey from Festival by the Lake found that most important issue was lake's quality followed by growth.
- Compost raffle was won by Linda Callahan.
- J. Smith-Galvin has drafted the mailing list based on names and contact info collected at the event.
- R. Darnell has assembled a list of locations folks requested drinking foundations, bike racks, and trees. He will share the list with DPW.

ESC Policy & Procedures

- M. Sessions noted that Town Hall didn't have a bike rack. J. Conway will investigate adding one.
- DPW's current bike rack inventory list is based on Mass in Motion, age of map unknown. J. Conway to investigate need to update.
- Committee provided edits.
- ESC will provide a written brief committee report that will be included in the annual Town Report was a request by Town Councilor Chair.
- Edits to the document will be reviewed by Town Counsel.

**Town Events/
Parks
Documents**

- Sustainable public event flyer was reviewed by the committee.
- The flyer will be included with the Town Council's application to have a public event.
- R. Greenberg will draft a supplemental document that explains why the measures are important that will be posted on the town website. Request to provide resources to meet the goals.

**Downtown
Revitalization**

"Envision", the current town's downtown revitalization project is going from conceptual to design development. R.Darnell will draft an email of support for the project and mention some areas of concern.

- Support:
 - Multi-model, including the added bike lanes
 - Space for recycling and trash collection bins. Can bins have an ash tray included?
 - Added raingardens, especially on Albion Street
- Concern:
 - That the plan concerns transportation change for the next 30+ years. Need a flexible roadway.
 - R. Darnell noted wider asphalt area at road/parking area at Lower Common is a concern of his.

**Head of the
Lake Q
Projects
Environ-
mental Impact**

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt (FOLQ) has given the town a financial donation to reroute the pathway, regrade the pathway, add plants, and other improvements to address erosion and water quality at Col. Connelly Park and Gertrude Spaulding Park. The next step of the project is a ConComm review, potentially in early August 2019. Construction is anticipated by Fall 2019.

Sewer Rates

The Committee brainstorms other suggestions for other FOLQ donations, including requesting funding to purchase trash/recycling Big Bellys to be installed around the lake to reduce litter entering the lake.

J. Conway explained that one of the reasons the sewer rates have increased is because of infiltration. DPW is working on addressing it where they can. DPW is not authorized to investigate interior violations where sump pump water is discharging directly into sewer lines. DPW can issue letter to the homeowner explaining that they cannot discharge groundwater or stormwater into street per a town bylaw.

Trash, Recycling, and Disposal Contracts

R. Darnell and J. Conway will discuss potential language that can be added to a permit explaining the bylaw.

J. Conway noted that the decrease use of garbage disposers helps lower sewer costs because less waste volume heads to sewer treatment at Deer Island.

Wakefield's waste is metered as it leaves town.

The town has three different contracts: trash pick-up, recycling, and disposal of refuse.

- The town's new trash pick-up contract starts in September 2019.
- New recycling contract will start in 2021. The committee asked if a recycling transfer station could be added to the Pit. J. Conway was unaware of what permits would be required to do it. The committee ask if the town is able to reduce contamination in the recycle stream, could prices be reduced?
- Disposal of refuse contract currently has refuse going to Haverhill's incinerator. This contract is expiring soon. Stoneham, Reading, and Wakefield are talking together to negotiate collectively which they have done in the past to get a lower rate.

The RFP for rubbish includes qualifications, e.g. the age of vehicles (because younger vehicles are potential better mpg and frequency of pick-ups. Current contactor's proposal offers public education as a service. The committee requested that DPW include a town's sustainability interested in their RFPs.

Climate Preparedness Week

R. Greenberg has contacted the DPW Advisory Committee for their meeting schedule.

Climate Preparedness Week (CPW) is September 24-30th. Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) reached out to the Town Council for a resolution to say that Sept 24-30th is Climate Preparedness Week in the town. J. Smith-Galvin plans to suggest that there be an event to celebrate CPW and will ask TC to support it. ESC supported the idea of having an event. R. Darnell suggested that there be a CPW table at the Saturday, Sept 28th Farmers Market. J. Smith-Galvin and R. Darnel will discuss event ideas with input from the DPW. J. Kallay will notify WMGLD of CPW and see they are interested in having an event that week.

Pending Business & Discussions

WMGLD news:

- J. Kallay presented at a state board about WMGLD efforts. Pending legislation bills of interest include Roadmap to 2050 and emissions out of municipal light plants (MLPs).
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory is in progress. WMGLD is requesting greenhouse emissions based on electricity use.
- Compared to other towns, Wakefield is relatively 'clean' on emissions because the town use a lot of nuclear power. WMGLD has a 14% renewal energy goal. Use of nuclear does not help in that goal. Current renewal energy usage is 0%.

**Other
Business****Student Liaison**

R. Darnell accepted M Session's draft of the ad. The ad requests a letter of interest and a resume, if available. The proposed deadline to receive applications is Sept 15th. Notices of the ad will be posted at the high school, Item, town media, and as requested for public notices.

R. Darnell and J. Galvin-Smith met with ConComm about the MVP and ESC's survey about making the Lake clean. ConComm has a draft of the c.2016 lake water quality report. A final version of report is not available. No known action has occurred based on the report's recommendations. ESC's next step is meeting, August 1st, with Claire Moss, Wakefield's stormwater project manager, and Bill Renault, DPW town engineer. They will report back to the Committee.

Park & Cemetery will be planting more street trees. J. Conway will provide more info on quantity of trees and locations.

J. Conway will investigate if there is a surplus Big Belly unit available. R. Darnell suggested that it be installed at Spaulding Park.

DPW Director Search Committee's interviews for the next round is next Wednesday afternoon. Rob attended first round of reviews but he is unavailable to attend 2nd round where applicants will present their proposed Action Plan with Q&A from the committee. M. Sessions and J. Hajjer may split attendance.

Next Meeting

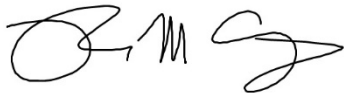
Vehicle idling. J. Conway noted that DPW has rules that cover employees and contactors to limit idling. J. Kallay will see if WMGLC has policies and practices on the issue. M. Sessions will research practices at the local and state level. The Committee is interested in getting vehicle to idle less for air quality reasons.

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is August 1, 2019, at 7pm at Town Hall.

**Committee
Meeting
Adjournment**

R. Darnell motioned to adjourn. M. Sessions seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary