



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, **August 1**, 2019

**7:00 P.M.**

**Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
**Rob Darnell, Chair**  
**Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair**  
**Myra Sessions**  
**Julie Smith-Galvin**  
**Jennifer Kallay**  
**Joe Conway, DPW Rep**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**Ann Fortier**  
**Robin Greenberg, Secretary**

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

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at **7:09** p.m.

**Public Participation** Paul Reavis, Bob Vogtli, Jasmine Vogtli were present for the meeting. Claire Moss (DPW) and Angela Cleveland (KLA Consulting) presented at the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes, June and July 2019** Jenn Kallay offered amendments to the minutes to clarify WMGLD section of the notes. J Smith-Galvin made motion to accept the revised minutes for June meeting, R Darnell seconded. All approved.  
J Smith-Galvin made motion to accept the revised minutes for July meeting, R Darnell seconded. All approved.

**Drafting Planning Document** M Hajjar discussed plan to develop a grid of all initiatives in town that relate to sustainability. The longer-term goal is to develop some metrics around sustainability that we can agree on to move the agenda forward and can drive improvements. In the shorter-term, need a tracking grid for the initiatives and what is currently happening, what the opportunities are for the town.

**ESC Policy & Procedures** Plan to develop the grid of initiatives to be discussed in the September meeting.

R Darnell presented the revised ESC Policy and Procedure documents that incorporated edits discussed in the July meeting. M Sessions made motion to approve, J Smith-Galvin seconded the motion. All approved

## **Town Survey on Disaster Mitigation**

Claire Moss (DPW) and Angela Cleveland (KLA Consulting) presented on the town surveys related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness.

- Recent survey on disaster mitigation received 80 responses.
- Tried to gauge where community members are with planning for disasters, what they think about climate change, what they think about resiliency.

KLA provided an update on the work around disaster preparation and resiliency.

- *Envision Wakefield Resilient* is the branding of the effort to mirror the broader town revitalization effort, which is called *Envision Wakefield*.
- Developing an evaluation framework and then a strategy to increase resiliency among community members.
- Going to release an upcoming survey, then prioritization.
- They are also working on focus groups to solicit feedback.
- August 29 event at the Americal Center, 7pm. Presentation and listening session to present results and ask people what they are doing to address hazards. What will people do and what could the town do to promote resiliency?

ESC Committee members provided feedback on the questions for the survey, including specific suggestions on the language of several questions. Committee members also identified opportunities to align priorities between *Envision Wakefield Resilient* and the Environmental Sustainability Committee goals.

Committee requested one addition to the survey: Thinking about Wakefield specifically, what would you like to see your town environmental sustainability committee address? Answers would be an open comment.

## **Discussion of an event for September: Emergency Preparedness Month**

Committee members spoke with Claire and Angela about possibly collaborating on a public event in September, which is Emergency Preparedness month.

## **MBTA Survey**

MBTA has created a survey to solicit public input into operations; Town Council is taking the lead on promoting the survey in Wakefield. Survey will solicit ideas on rider experiences and schedules as well as general operations. The survey will be open until September 1.

Committee members noted that it is unclear whether *Envision Wakefield* has accounted for public transportation in the downtown revitalization plan; that

could be a gap. Paul Reavis noted that several years ago there was a study of the Main Street Corridor which included a study of access to public transportation in the off-hours and weekend hours. There are very limited services after 7pm; we don't want additional gaps in service for the community.

**Updated:  
Idling**

J Kallay gave an update on anti-idling. Following the last meeting, J Kallay shared the text of the anti-idling law with WMGLD. Guidance about not idling had been included in previous versions of the WMGLD Employee Handbook but had been accidentally removed in the latest version. The Department will add the language back into the Employee Handbook and inform employees not to leave vehicles idling when possible.

J Conway reported that DPW has in the past stressed reducing idling, especially when the gas was \$4 per gallon. Limiting the idling when not necessary is a requirement in DPW contracts. Idling for DPW vehicles is often required, which is exempted from the legal ban.

J Smith-Galvin questioned whether there may be an opportunity to align public education about vehicle idling with the new parking attendants.

**Update:  
WMGLD**

J Kallay gave additional updated from WMGLD: WLGLD Commission is working on updating the energy efficiency programs. Meeting in September will dig into the programs and the amounts, offerings.

Update on the WMGLD solar incentives: 50% of the grant funding has been committed. There have been 9 committed solar projects, with an additional 3 projects submitted in the last week. Solar installers are advertising in the Item which is a good sign of increasing interest. If there continues to be interest, WMGLD will approach DOE to see if there is additional funding possible and how much.

**Update:  
Committee to  
Clean-up  
Lake  
Quannapowit**

R Darnell gave an update on the Lake Q committee which met in 2016 and came up with recommendations on the clean-up of the lake. DPW has adopted some of the recommendations and will move forward. J Conway discussed water quality and surface run-off improvements of the infrastructure, which achieves 2 goals at once. Work to be done in the fall and early winter.

Cleaning up the lake was the #1 action item/ priority for the MVP.

**Update:  
Pollination  
Garden**

R Darnell reported that he met with Greenwood school volunteer that created and maintains the pollination garden and sensory garden.

**Update: State Budget for Sustainability Efforts in Wakefield**

J Smith-Galvin gave an update on the state budget, which was signed by Governor Baker. Wakefield will receive \$50,000 for municipal solar, funding for a Community Garden and one additional electric vehicle for WMGLD.

**Trash and Recycling Contract**

R Darnell reported that he spoke with Chris Tarr, from the DPW Advisory Board about the trash and recycling contracts. Claire Moss (DPW) is overseeing the environmental programs for DPW, will include trash and recycling. Schools are working on textile recycling as a fundraiser. Are there other things should be doing? Advisory board is working related issues.

R Darnell reported on research about what other towns are doing about large metal bins for recycling (outside of curb-side pick-up). Stoneham has large metal bins for the recycling at their pit – no permit needed. Need a permit for scrap metal, but the Wakefield pit already has a container. Recycling bins can offset the cost of cardboard. J Conway will follow-up with Stoneham for more information.

**Tree By-law**

R Darnell reported that he was at the conservation committee meeting. There seems to be a disconnect between some of the departments including cutting down the trees. May make sense to write a by-law on tree removal (would not include street trees). Paul Reavis reported that some other towns, including Andover and Westminster, have by-laws about tree removal and earth removal, but Wakefield does not.

- Concord has a tree removal bylaw that extends to private land. Financial incentives to developers to retain the trees, ask for support to conservation fund.
- Suggested a tree survey as a part of the planning board. Can have a conversation with developers to preserve the trees, but there is a limit on the authority
- Planning board has a list of recommended street trees (adopted in December).

J Conway reported that Wakefield does have a storm water by-law, if development over 15,000 feet (lot size) need stormwater review. That may be related to tree removal for larger developments.

M. Hajjar suggested that the committee should bring the bylaws together and understand the gaps and the opportunities. Goal is to protect the tree cover of the town but not inappropriately inhibit development.

P Reavis noted that it would be nice if there was a “Trees for Wakefield” organization that would advocate for tree preservation and offer support for planning.

**Upcoming  
Events**

The Committee decided that a next step would be to look at the 15,000 sq ft bylaw and gain a better understanding from Concord about what may work. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

J Smith-Galvin reported that on September 28 there will be a Mass Climate Action and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield event which is a training on how to advocate for climate issues including how to go from education to action.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is September 12, 2019, at 7pm at Town Hall.

**Committee  
Meeting  
Adjournment**

R. Darnell motioned to adjourn. M. Sessions seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Sessions