



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Public Safety Building, 1st Floor Meeting Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair
 Robin Greenberg, Secretary
 Myra Sessions
 Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep
 Claire Moss, DPW Rep
 Jennifer Kallay, WMGLD
 Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council Rep
 Cameron Sweeney, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
 Rob Darnell, Chair
 Joe Conway, DPW Rep
 Addie Festel, Student Liaison
 Liz Sheridan, Student Liaison
 Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

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

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m by Mary Hajjar.
Public Participation	Melissa Eusden has been working on language for a potential article in the upcoming Town Meeting (TM) on a Styrofoam ban. March 26, 2020 is the deadline for TM warrant articles.
Approval of Minutes, January 2020	Carol Zoubek stopped by food pantry today to discuss food composting with them. She offered to pick up their food waste to be added to her Black Earth food bin. R. Greenberg made motion to accept the minutes for Jan meetings. S. Veilleux second. Meeting minutes accepted.
MVP Guiding Principles/ Evaluation Framework	A vote on principles was tabled for March 2020 meeting. MVP Guiding Principals are scheduled to go to Town Council at their February 24, 2020. No formal adaptation, just guidelines, will be considered by the TC. The town plans to post the principles on the town website. C. Moss noted that there will be training in March for MVP attendees and town departments on how the town departments can use them.
Proposed Styrofoam/ Plastic Straw Bylaw	Citizens are working on a citizen petition on potential language for Styrofoam ban based on Saugus and Melrose to be submitted at the May 4, 2020 TM. S. Veilleux noted that Wakefield Public Schools (WPS) is already looking at options for Styrofoam alternatives in the cafeterias. Alternates used may vary by school. MA Association of School Committees (MASC) members and superintendents has recently issued a resolution about removing Styrofoam in schools.

J. Smith-Galvin shared that a group of citizens, including herself, are drafting language for a citizen petition for next TM to amend plastic reduction town regulations to expand the single use plastic ban to include all food service providers including schools, religious centers, and restaurants and the single use plastic includes plastic straws. Straws would be allowed to be provided by request and allowed in senior housing and medical assistance facilities. The group are considering to propose that the speed in which the change would go into effect would vary by type of business and facility. Their language is under review by the town counselor the proposals for his review and for his formal drafting the proposals for submission to the Town Meeting.

ESC will not use town resources to advocate for the citizen petitions.

Earth Day 2020

M. Sessions suggested a public education campaign for the month of April. Campaign may include Letters to the Editor in the Wakefield Daily Item, other publications, and the town website. The goal of the campaign is to start a town conversation about sustainability issues. She will coordinate writing campaign. The campaign may student writing submissions. S. Veilleux will talk with school reps on including having student writing and art.

The Big Purge, Sustainability Surge

J. Smith-Galvin, Laurie Hunt and other citizens are organizing The Big Purge, a community lead event, on Saturday, April 25, 9am -1pm. There is no rain date. The event includes: recycling event at the high school, paper shredding, recycling of textiles, Styrofoam, and scrap metals, and composting collection by Black Earth. They are working on adjacent events that may include: clothing swap, gold buy back, yard pit, yard sales, Kid Kindness event, and Friends of Lake Quannapowitt's lake clean up event. The event's website will have tips and resources on sustainability topics. .DPW will have a tent to talk about rain barrel and other sustainability activities. J. Smith-Galvin is working on press release, making the event's website public and look at advertising the event in upcoming utilities bills.

WPS Updates

S. Veilleux reported that WPS food service is looking to switch from bags with forks, napkins, etc. to individual utensils.

WPS is considering replacing Styrofoam trays with paper "boats". They are looking for the recycling club to assist in explaining the changes at high school. C. Sweeney will working with S. Veilleux.

8th graders' civil projects are in research mode but after February vacation, students will be in action mode where they need to learn about the process to change. S. Veilleux will be meeting with the social students coordinator to see if she can assist on connecting the students with ESC members, Town Councilors, and other town committees. She will report at March meeting.

WMGLD Update

J. Kallay reported that the MVP/DPW/WMGLD grant proposal to the state is still pending.

On their Feb 5th meeting, WMGLD approved to move to adding solar (close to 25 kW) on one of the water department buildings on Broadway Street. The project will be free with state funding grant and other resources. This will be the first PV install on town municipal project in Wakefield. The array will be installed by end of June 2020. J. Smith-Galvin hopes to have display of power output on a dashboard seen on the town website.

EV chargers have arrived. Installation of them will be as soon as possible.

Residential energy auditing reports has been updated to include more info, lists pay backs, and lists department's rebates.

There are state legislative bills that call for 50% emission reduction with a goal of net zero in the future.

DPW Update

C. Moss reported that the DPW Advisory group approved a free curbside textile recycling by Simple Recycling. The program is expected to start around Earth Day 2020. Each resident will receive two pink bags at start. The pink bags will be pick up on trash days. This service is used in many local communities including Melrose. The Bay State and Planet Aid collection bins will remain in town and are not expected to be negatively impacted by adding to Simple Recycling based on other towns experience when the programs are available simultaneously.

DPW will be doing more press releases on recycling.

Recycle Smart, DEP program, is the best resource on what is recyclable by curbside service.

MA DEP and JRM Hauling and Recycling are okay with receiving pizza box in their recycling bins as long as no food in the box, grease okay.

DEP has a goal of 2021 for mattress recycling issues.

**ESC
Community
Drop-In Event
WPS STEAM
Night**

J. Smith-Galvin provided a report on event.

ESC will have a table at the STEAM Night on March 12, 2020, at the Galvin Middle School, 6-8pm, to talk with K-12 families at middle school.

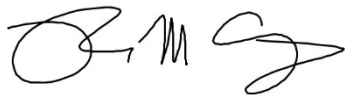
**2021 Town
Budget
Zero Waste
Events**

J. Smith-Galvin requested \$1,000 for town 2021 budget for ESC use.

No news

Town Council Update	J. Smith-Galvin plans to provide an update on ESC activities and explain what a Green Community is at an April 2020 Town Council meeting.
Remote Participate	J. Smith-Galvin reported that oral participation by community members via phone is being considered. She will provide more info and regulations at a future ESC meeting.
Next Meeting	The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is March 5, 2020, at 7pm at Town Hall.
Committee Meeting Adjournment	M. Hajjar motioned to adjourn. S. Veilleux seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: none