



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 13, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting #962 5690 0184

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
 Rob Darnell, Chair  
 Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair  
 Robin Greenberg, Recording Secretary  
 Myra Sessions  
 Joe Conway, DPW rep  
 Tom Boettcher, WMGLD rep  
 Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep  
 Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
 Addie Festel, Student Liaison  
 Cameron Sweeney, Student Liaison  
 Liz Sheridan, Student Liaison  
 Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep

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

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m by R. Darnell.

**Public Participation** No comment

**Approval of Minutes, July 2020** Vote rescheduled for September meeting.

**Focus Groups** ESC has creating focus groups to discuss selection topic. Groups will include ESC members and non-ESC members. Groups will research the topic and to seek outsiders' input. Groups are being formed on trash reduction, Green Communities Act, and Lands Trust.

**Focus Group – Trash Reduction** The focus group's goal is to work on revised language on new proposed plastic and Styrofoam rules, discuss how to increase recycling and composting, and how to reduce refuse.

A representative of the Chamber of Commerce was not available to attend tonight ESC meeting. J. Smith-Galvin will invite them to the September ESC meeting.

The State ban on plastic bag ban because of the pandemic has been lifted. The Town's ordinance banning plastic bag can be in forced again starting in September.

**Focus Group – Green Communities Act** The focus group's goal to work to make Wakefield a Green Communities.

<b>Focus Group - Land Trust</b>	The focus group's goal to address land protection, potentially through a Land Trust or other avenues.
<b>Plastic Bag Collection Update</b>	R. Darnell reported that more 600 pounds have been collected to date for the Trix benches. R. Darnell confirmed that we can get more than one bench provided that sufficient plastic bags are collected by December 1, 2020. Currently, R. Darnell collects the bags from the bins at the Town Hall on Mondays. He weighs the collection using a fish scale. J. Conway offered DPW's help on delivery of the bags to the Home Depot in Reading. R. Darnell and J. Conway will discuss logistics.
<b>Student Liaison Update</b>	No comment
<b>WPS Updates</b>	<p>R. Darnell will see if WPS food service kitchen's can make use of 2010-2020 Black Earth compost contracts. Three-quarters of the school year compost service has already been paid with grant. Glavin Middle School might offer lunch service in fall 2020.</p> <p>J. Conway will ask school superintendent in his weekly meeting if the table coverings used in the cafeterias can be paper and therefore be available for composting.</p>
<b>Town Council Liaison Comments</b>	<p>J. Smith-Galvin reported that a resident has expressed interested in expansion of bike lanes, especially along the Albion Street streetscape design. She plans to discuss with Bill Renault, the town engineer, and J. Conway. J. Smith-Galvin proposes that can be another ESC focus group could be formed to look into expansion of bike lanes, consider Melrose's PedBike as a model.</p> <p>Applications are due next week for municipal technical grants for studies from the state.</p>
<b>WMGLD Update</b>	<p>T. Boettcher is looking at potential solar and battery opportunities at the renovated public safety building to create a "microgrid". Public safety building has good solar exposure.</p> <p>On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the town reached annual electrical capacity so "shave the peak" is now in effect.</p> <p>The public dashboard to see the DPW solar panels is available on via the WMGLD website.</p>
<b>DPW Update</b>	<p>C. Moss has resigned from her position at Wakefield DPW. Ann Waitt, DPW Business Manager, and J. Conway will share responsibility of ESC representation.</p> <p>J. Conway reported that MVP grant results are expected this week.</p>

J. Conway reported that the Simpler recycling 'pink bags' collection of clothing and fabrics has been successful. Its impacted on school clothing unknown at this time.

**Clean Lake  
Committee  
Update**

R. Darnell reported that the committee is waiting for the MVP grant results. At their next meeting, with the Friends of the Lake, they will discuss the Converse proposed project. The committee is considering suggesting zoning changes around the outfall into the lake inlets. Potential zoning changes include to change the protection zone around the lake from its current 100 ft buffer zone to the full watershed. The watershed is the area where water can flow into the lake.

**Other  
Comments**

J. Smith-Galvin thanked Carol Zoubek for her efforts for maintaining the green space at the First Baptist Church.

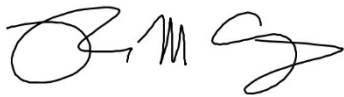
**Next Meetings**

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is September 10, 2020.

**Committee  
Meeting  
Adjournment**

R. Darnell motion to adjust. M. Hajjar second. R. Darnell performed roll call for approve to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -