



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Rob Darnell, Chair
 Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair
 Robin Greenberg, Recording Secretary
 Myra Sessions
 Joe Conway, DPW rep (voting rep)
 Ann Waitt, DPW rep
 Tom Boettcher, WMGLD rep
 Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep
 Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep
 Sophie Brown, Student Liaison
 Addie Festel, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
 Cameron Sweeney, Student Liaison
 Liz Sheridan, Student Liaison

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

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

Public Participation Carol Zoubek has concern about the additional geese that she has seen in town. J. Conway will look into current DPW efforts. He shared that the town has tried to move the flocks along from the fields and lake. The DPW boat moored at Vets Field is used regularly to disperse the geese from the lake.

Approval of Minutes, July and August 2020 R. Greenberg motion for approval and M. Hajjar second; motion to approve July's notes with edit from J. Smith-Galvin. All approved with S. Veilleux abstain.

Focus Group – Trash Reduction Trash Reduction focus group has no report.

R. Darnell and J. Conway shared that Black Earth sent letter to the DPW proposing an opportunity for the town to work with the business. Proposal is being reviewed by the DPW.

J. Conway shared that the tonnage cost increase for disposal of town trash went into affect in July.

A. Waitt shared that in June, Simple Recycling (pink textile bags) collected 2,425lbs in June and it increased to 11,971lbs in July. Simple Recycling is available to all resident, even to residents that do not have access to the town recycling. DPW is working to schedule distribution of information flyers on the program.

A. Waitt confirmed that pizza boxes are recyclable with grease, no food included. S. Veilleux suggested that as a committee, we suggest content for the town's Facebook page, i.e. recycling tip of the week. The committee was in support of the idea and will coordinate with Jenn McDonald, town communication staffer. DEP's Recycle Smart MA's Facebook page was suggested as source of content.

J. Smith-Galvin is planning to meet with the Chamber next week to talk about elimination of Styrofoam use.

**Focus Group –
Green
Communities
Act**

A focus group met and developed a powerpoint on Green Communities to be shared with the Town Council and public, see attached. It may be used for a future Town Meeting as needed. Members decided the zoning options. S. Veilleux noted that the school department may have a limited ability to participate immediately in creating an energy reduction plan due to COVID related activities. First effort in creating an energy reduction plan are to determine current usage and that info comes from utilities so minimal effort by the school and town is needed at this time for the energy reduction plan. J. Smith-Galvin motioned that the ESC vote to peruse the state process to become a Green Community. M. Session second and the motion passed to support perusing Green Community status.

**Focus Group -
Land Trust**

M. Hajjar talked with Judy Green, Wakefield Conservation Commission (ConComm) Secretary to understand scope of land owned by Town and with and representative from MA Fishers & Wildlife to learn more about Land Trusts. She learned there are a few options to protect public landing including via an Article 97, town land is transferred via an Article 97, ConComm's control when a conservation restriction could be applied, or land trust is created. Judy is providing M. Hajjar with an inventory of land. It was suggested that any parcel of land on Mass Audubon's priority parcel list should be considered for protection. M. Hajjar will continue to look at this issue and update the committee.

**Plastic Bag
Collection
Update**

R. Darnell shared Bags Challenge poster, see attached. J. Conway confirmed that DPW is now collecting the bags and bring them to Home Depot. 750 lbs have been collected to date.

Safe Streets

J. Smith-Galvin shared that Safe Streets is a group advocating for safe streets in Wakefield for pedestrians and bicycles. They are hosting an organizing meeting @ September 22, 7pm, on Zoom. They are a grassroot group, not an ESC committee but ESC member and all public may attend.

**Student
Liaison
Update**

R. Darnell will confirm that our current student members to can continue on committee without reapproval since it has been a year since they joined the group.

WPS Updates	<p>S. Veilleux that only lunch is being served only at Galvin. Other schools are providing grab-and-go lunch.</p> <p>R. Darnell requested that pumpkin drop off with Black Earth to occur this year. S. Veilleux will bring the question to the schools while R. Darnell discusses logistics with Black Earth noting the school's modified schedule this fall.</p>
Town Council Liaison Comments	J. Smith-Galvin reported that November 7, 2020, is the potential date of the fall Town Meeting.
WMGLD Update	T. Boettcher reported that the Solar Rebate program is sun downing in December 2020. Applications for the rebate need approval needed by end of December but their install can be done in 2021. There are funds available for 6-7 homes. WMGLD is scheduling a virtual Smart Homes roundtable this fall.
DPW Update	<p>J. Conway shared that the DPW exploring more PV options on town property(s) since the PV on water pump building have proven to be been so successful.</p> <p>J. Conway says that in October 2021, the current recycling contract expires for curbside pick up. He needs to have a new contract finalize before spring 2021 Town Meeting so that costs associated with the contract are available for the fall 2021 Town Meeting. J. Conway requested suggestions on what should be explored for the new contract. The committee's suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost for weekly v. biweekly pick ups - Vendor to assist with public education on recycling - Offer plastic bag collection - Tracking and sharing data on how much recycled captures, what is captured, how much captured offset from trash for costs savings and environmental benefits - Recycling - at all schools - Recycling services at town parks expanded - Consider multi-family collection or assist them in how they can receive recycling services. J. Conway that needs to discuss with Town Attorney. <p>A. Waitt is point of contact for the DPW for the DEP since Claire Moss left.</p> <p>The town drainage on Main Street and MVP Greenhouse Gas proposals state grants were denied. DPW hopes to reapply in spring. They are requesting a meeting with the state to discuss the proposals.</p>

**Clean Lake
Committee
Update**

R. Darnell attended developer's meeting to discussed the proposed head of the lake development.

R. Darnell asked J. Conway to find out why there were no health postings about algae bloom that occurred in August. J. Conway noted postings are done by DPH with DPW's water data.

**Electronic
Equipment
Recycling**

R. Darnell shared info on an electronic equipment recycling event organized by Green Day Recycling, see attached for the flyer.

Next Meetings

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is October 8, 2020.

**Committee
Meeting
Adjournment**

R. Darnell motion to adjourn. M. Sessions second. R. Darnell performed roll call for approve to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: Green Community powerpoint slides, Bags Challenge poster, Electronics Recycling Event

Green Communities: Program Overview and Next Steps

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting
September 10, 2020



Purpose of the presentation



Describe Green Communities



Identify eligibility requirements



Summarize program benefits



Propose a path forward



What is a Green Community Designation?

- A Green Community is a municipality that has received the Massachusetts designation and qualifies for the state [grant program](#)
- Green Communities are focused on [reducing energy use and environmental impacts](#) by **municipal buildings** and its vehicles and new construction
- Utilized by the majority of Massachusetts towns and cities
- Green Community Designation and Grant Program is managed by the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER)



What are the program benefits?

- Reduce energy costs for the Town and its residents
- Enable investments in buildings and vehicles
- Access grants for clean affordable and resilient energy projects;
 - Receive an estimated initial \$170,000 grant upon acceptance into the program
 - Receive awards of up to \$200,000 annually towards actions identified the town's energy reduction plan
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Promote energy-efficient building construction
- Foster renewable energy and clean energy technologies
- Become a clean energy leader and a better place to live, work, and play
- Contribute to Wakefield's positive reputation

What are the qualification criteria to be designed as a Green Community?

1. Adopt zoning for renewable energy facilities
2. Adopt expedited permitting process for renewable energy facilities
3. Create an town Energy Reduction Plan
4. Adopt a Fuel Efficient Vehicle Purchase Policy
5. Adopt the Stretch Code

Criteria 1 & 2: Renewable energy

Identify zones and adopt updates to include at least one of three siting options for those zones:

1. Research & Development
2. Generation
3. Manufacturing

Adopt an Expedited Permitting Policy

One year at most,
for applicable facilities
in designated
renewable zones



Criteria #3: Energy Reduction Plan

Understand current energy use of municipal facilities and vehicles to create a baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use by:

20 % in 5 years



Criteria #4: Efficient Vehicles

Adopt an Efficient Vehicle Purchasing Policy that:

1. Requires all municipal departments and divisions to replace non-exempt vehicles with fuel-efficient vehicles over time
2. Develops and maintains a vehicle inventory for all municipally-owned four-wheeled passenger vehicles
3. Includes planning for replacing non-exempt vehicles with vehicles that meet specified fuel efficiency ratings



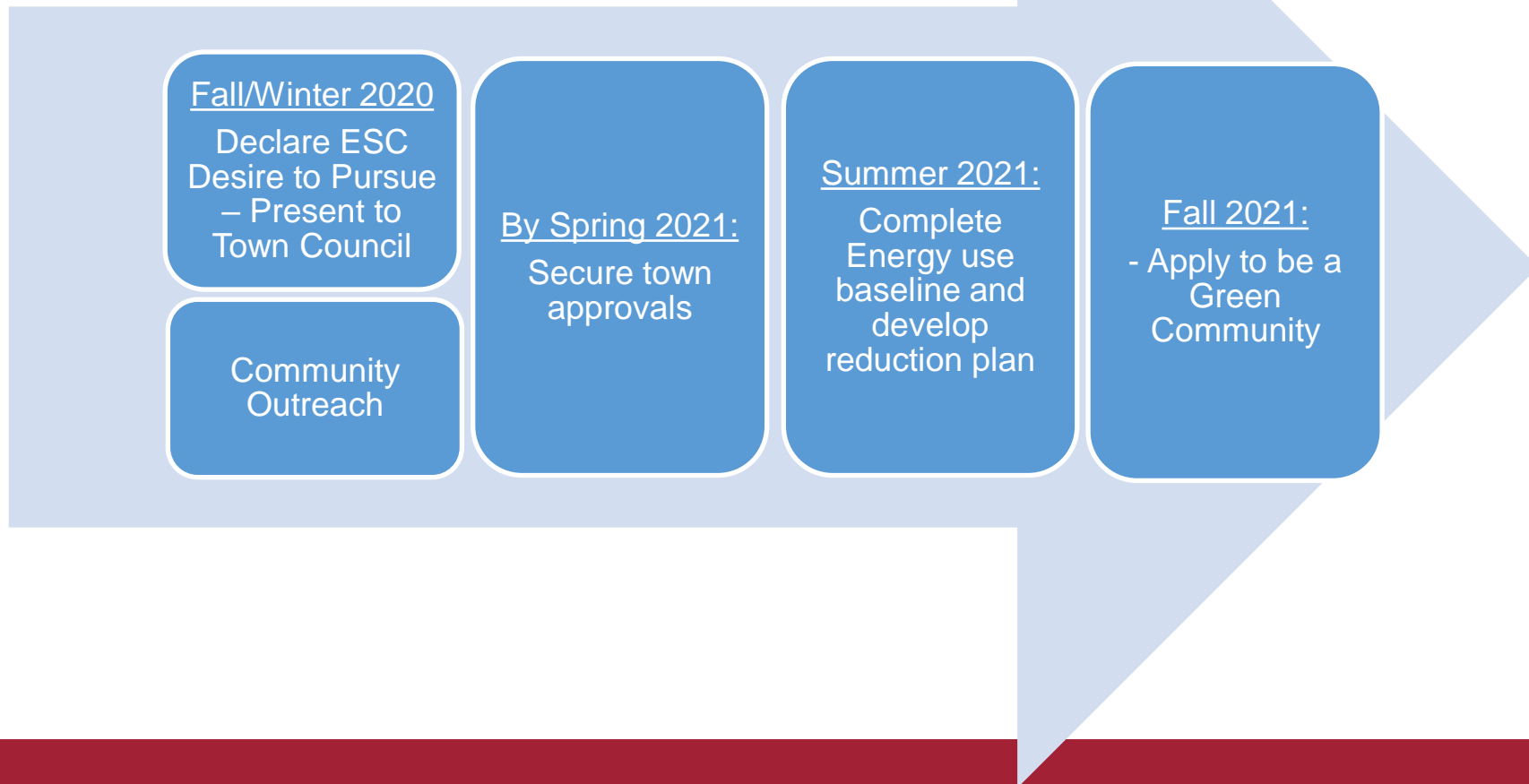
Criteria #5: Adopt the Stretch Code

Promote energy efficiency by requiring all new residential construction and large commercial construction to meet the state stretch energy code

Massachusetts Stretch Code (780 CMR 115.AA)



Proposed Path Forward



Additional Resources

To learn more, see the state's website on Green Communities

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/becoming-a-designated-green-community>



BAGS TO BENCH CHALLENGE

Recycle plastic bags, films, and wraps into benches for Wakefield schoolyards.

Wakefield's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) invites you to take on the Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge.

Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking products, will repurpose our plastic bags and films into benches that will be donated to our elementary schools.



Drop off your clean, dry, food-free plastic products in the bins in the parking lot of Town Hall (near the fenced dumpster). The program concludes on December 1, 2020.

Questions? Connect with the ESC at ESC@wakefield.ma.us.

SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED. PLEASE WEAR MASKS!



**ACCEPTING ANY AND ALL
ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES!**

CLICK HERE FOR PRICE INFORMATION

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

**Saturday, October 3rd
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**St. Florence Church
47 Butler Ave.
Wakefield, MA**

Cost to You:

- \$5 each for Computers, DVD Players, Printers, Laptops, Misc. Electronics
- \$10 each for Microwaves, Small Household Appliances
- \$15 each for Computer Monitors, AC's, Dehumidifiers, Large Printers
- \$20 each for TVs up to 24," Washing Machines, Dryers, Stoves, Large Appliances, Grills, Exercise Equipment, Large Yard Equipment
- \$25 each for TVs between 25" and 31," Large Refrigerators
- \$30 each for TVs between 32" and 35"
- \$35 each TVs over 36"
- \$40 each for Projection TVs
- NO CHARGE for Cell Phones, Bikes, Car or Truck Batteries

**ALL TOWNS WELCOME! RAIN OR SHINE
ZERO LANDFILL, CASH PREFERRED, CHECKS (Over \$30)**

Questions? Contact: GreenDayRecyclingMA@Gmail.com

