



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 14, 2021  
5:30 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

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**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Ann Waitt, DPW rep

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

<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m by R. Darnell.
<b>Public Participation</b>	Melissa Eusden mentioned that everyone should encourage restaurants to use plant-based and paper-based containers in lieu of black plastic container. Carol Zoubek noted that recycling plants are hoping to get a device that can see black plastic to make it so black containers can be recycled.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	M. Sessions motion for the Approval of October 19 <sup>th</sup> , November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and November 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. J. Smith-Galvin second approval. Motion passed with edits.
<b>Student Liaison</b>	<p>ESC has received four applicants. R. Greenberg motioned to accept all. M. Hajjar second. Approved</p> <p>M. Session asked for suggestions from current liaisons on how we can improve experience for student liaison. A. Festel and S. Brown noted that they have had limited capacity influence at school because of limited in-school time since March. At a future meeting, ESC will discuss how increase social media use for education of residents on issues.</p> <p>J. Smith-Galvin shared: Check out these recycling education videos Norwell students have done <a href="https://vimeo.com/482694666">https://vimeo.com/482694666</a> and <a href="https://vimeo.com/492245045">https://vimeo.com/492245045</a></p>
<b>Trash Reduction</b>	J. Conway shared that the DPW is doing a second round of interviews of recycling companies. All conversations include talking about town composting. J. Conway



noted including requests on special drop-off days of additional recycling goods. RFP responses were education heavy.

At the next meeting, he suggests revisiting having the Great Purge event.

**Green  
Communities Act**

J. Smith-Galvin had no news on the town creating the Working Group.

**Land Protection**

M. Hajjar has been researching town plans and rules around level of “protection” of town land. For example Town Forrest which is 25 acres, it could be sold if Town Meeting approves, currently owned by DPW. If the land is owned by ConComm, it would have more protection and limits on future development.

M. Session asked if maintenance and/or access changes if land ownership goes from DPW to ConComm. She is interested in protecting open spaces.

Why who own what land is a question for Town Attorney to confirm. J. Conway noted that some land has gone from DPW to ConComm ownership.

Town’s Open Space Plan is available online:

<https://www.wakefield.ma.us/townplanner/files/open-space-and-recreation-plan-2005-2010>

Judy Green, ConComm state, noted that the plan is old.

J. Smith-Galvin noted the value of Land Protection on resilience and the town vision process is getting started which is likely to include development.

M. Hajjar sees the health benefit of land protection, i.e. air quality.

Mary asked for Tree Fund update. Has the program been successful? 114 tree planted but there has been loss of trees. The town plan to start planting again in April 2021.

At next meeting, J. Conway will provide an updated on replacing required by Crystal Lake.

M. Hajjar’s next step is to talk with Tom Mullen.

**Plastic Bag  
Collection**

R. Darnell is filling out form to receive the benches. It is to be determined if the Town Council or School Committee will need to vote to accept the donated benches from Trex. The plastic bag was very successful.

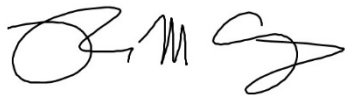
Plastic continues to be collected at Shaws, Target, and Home Depot for general plastic bag recycled.

Challenge restarts Summer 2021. Need to be approved.

	<p>S. Veilleux suggested that the success of collection needs to be promoted and she will discuss with Jenn McDonald.</p> <p>J. Conway noted that DPW's recent newsletter did include instructions on where to drop off bags since town collection ended.</p> <p>M. Session, J. Smith-Galvin, and S. Veilleux are talking with Town Economic staff working group on outreach, and potential for group purchases.</p>
<b>Safe Streets Group</b>	<p>J. Smith-Galvin shared that the group is busy. They have signed on to Safe Routes to School, a state program.; The program will be doing an audit with two walk visits planned. The group has submitted detailed comments to VHB on Revision Wakefield plan as part of design process. The group attends Malden and Melrose meetings and is working with Rail to Trails.</p>
<b>Student Member Comments</b>	<p>No news</p>
<b>WPS Update</b>	<p>S. Veilleux reported that WPS is entering budget season. Any ideas on sustainability goals to be considered. S. Veilleux will bring up question on how WPS will meet new by-laws implementation. S. Veilleux asked J. Conway to let her know if recycling talks have budget impacts to WPS.</p>
<b>Town Council Update</b>	<p>J. Smith-Galvin reported that TC is entering budget season.</p>
<b>WMGLD Update</b>	<p>T. Boettcher noted state legislation passed Climate Action Plan but Governor vetoed it. The Committee plans to resubmit.</p> <p>The board is looking at a community solar program and wants resident input. i.e. utility owns it or co-op options.</p> <p>WMGLD final report of participation of 2020 rebates is not yet available. Board is exploring what is next for rebates with the state.</p>
<b>DPW Update</b>	<p>J. Conway said that the engineering department is looking at town bicycle study to understand where cycling is happening and its impact on road projects.</p> <p>Albion Street update project is starting soon.</p> <p>DPW is looking at adding PV on another water building.</p>
<b>Clean Lake Committee Update</b>	<p>No news</p>

<b>Town Facility</b>	R. Greenberg suggested Permanent Building Committee and Public Safety Building subcommittee have a dialog to get groups to work together. Could ESC have a liaison on PBC? She will reach out to their chair.
<b>Committee Membership</b>	R. Greenberg suggested that the committee adding additional public members. J. Smith-Galvin will look into process on adjustments to ESC's size. One advantage would be that members would have staggered terms. Right now, all public members' seats expire May 2022.
<b>Communication</b>	M. Sessions will think about how to do public outreach, maybe a letter to Item on attention to current topics.
<b>Next Meetings</b>	The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7pm.
<b>Committee Meeting Adjournment</b>	J. Smith-Galvin motion to adjourn. M. Session second. R. Darnell performed roll call for approve to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,




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Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -