



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 11, 2021
6:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann Waitt, DPW rep
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m by R. Darnell.

Public Participation

Carol Zoubek noted her recent takeout experience includes receiving lots of disposal utensils. While black plastic is a recycling processing issue, she stated that it seems to be a good quality plastic for takeover containers. TerraCycle is working with Rubbermaid to create a recycling black plastic container program. She offered to help to talk with local retail business on take out container options.

Marie Rudzinsky, owner of Lakeside Mindfulness, requested to talk to ESC in a future meeting. She works with Awakening for Earth in Cambridge. She would like to collaborate with local groups on sustainability living and support ESC. She has experience working with Carol Z.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled for next meeting

Student Liaison

Introductions were made by the ESC and its new student liaisons. Students shared what made them interested in joining the committee.

Trash Reduction

J. Conway shared that he is still working on the recycling contracting and he hopes to be able to share news at ESC's next meeting.
M. Sessions shared she liked the news on the textile from pink bag effort.
J. Smith Galvin confirmed that the currently company does not accept black plastic and the town is working on sharing the info with the town.



Green Communities Act	<p>J. Smith-Galvin shared that the working group of town departments met to discuss. They are working on the Warrant language for the Spring 2021 TM. The warrant may be submitted through the Town Council. Update on the warrant is scheduled to be discussed at Feb 22nd TC meeting. Building inspector is positive about the stretch code. Jennifer Kelley is working on the energy modeling requirements with the state. The goal to submit the GCA application to state fall 2021. No scheduled public outreach on GCA is scheduled at this time. For more info on the GCA, the following website and powerpoint presentation attached to previous ESC meeting notes.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/guides/becoming-a-designated-green-community</p>
Land Protection	<p>M. Hajjar talked to Tom Mullen, town attorney, to confirm extent of protection of town owned land based on deed and type, i.e. Town Forrest. Mr. Mullen confirmed process: TC would need to declare that land is not useful to DPW, Town Meeting would need to vote by 2/3 support for a transfer to ConComm, and then the land would given protection under state Article 97. Protection could be a part of town's resiliency planning and study. Rebecca Davis, town Conservation Department is interested in looking at this effort with M. Hajjar and R. Darnell.</p>
Plastic Bag Collection	<p>R. Darnell has not news. Forms were sent to Tyvek Bench Program. Program might start up again this summer.</p>
Safe Streets Group	<p>J. Smith-Galvin reported that the group meeting last Tuesday of each month. They recently conducted a walk audit. The group is now a member of the state's Safe Routes to School program. Their first effort is on improving a route at Galvin MS. Their next meeting is 2/24 at 7pm, when VHB reviews the current redesign of downtown. Bicycle advocates have issued comments to VHB.</p> <p>For more info, see www.julieforwakefield.com/sswg</p>
Committee Collaborations	<p>R. Greenberg reported attending a recent town Permeant Building Committee (PBC) meeting to offer a relationship between them and ESC efforts. For the current high school project, they suggested reaching out to the high school's subcommittee which R. Greenberg has already established through S. Veilleux. Town projects should be using the Town's Resilience Framework, a tool to look at building projects. See the following for info:</p> <p>https://www.wakefield.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif3986/f/uploads/mvp-resilience-evaluation-framework.pdf</p>
ESC Social Media	<p>ESC had a discussion on how town groups use or not use various social media platform as a way to discuss if ESC should have an unique presence. To date, ESC has only used town Facebook site and the town website. Committee members expressed concerns on time for upkeep, need to monitor content if comments are allowed in response to postings, and ESC's potential limited reach to an audience compared to the town's Facebook account.</p> <p>U. Gerweck, N. Pillerima A. Lane, J. Smith-Galvin, and T. Boettcher are interested in talking with Jenn McDonald about options, style guide development, etc.</p>

Other towns' sustainability groups examples, see: Melrose, Somerville, and Boston

Student Member comments

U. Gerweck and N. Pillerima have offered to report on ESC's efforts at Youth Council meetings.

WPS Update

S. Veilleux reported School Committee is interesting in making WMHS project more sustainable. They are currently in OPM selection. At today's subcommittee meeting, she mentioned Robin's suggestions on topics to consider. As FY 2022 budget develops, S. Veilleux will talk with food service director about impact of Styrofoam ban.

WMHS marketing class is focusing on social media during the school year 2021-2022.

Town Council Update

J. Smith-Galvin shared that TC will need to vote to adjust number of ESC members and if schedule for adding student liaisons can align with the school year schedule. See additional notes under Green Communities Act.

WMGLD Update

T. Boettcher reported that Jenn Kallay Energy was on Nerd Podcast on Muni: <https://jenniferkallay.com/news-appearances/> She talked about how pumping station was selected to get solar. 10 minutes long

WMGLD has agreed to purchase in Ludlow, MA, see press release: MMWEC 1MW Solar Project <http://wmgld.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020A-Announcement-Wakefield.pdf>

WMGLD has updated their rebates incentives, Connected Homes Link <https://munihelps.org/rebates-incentives/wmgld/> Demand management. Now supports Honeywell and Nest thermostats.

They are working to partner with a 3rd party firm to assist home owners on installation of heat pump, heating systems, and insulation installations

EV charging station info is going into state EV Watts program, DOE receives high level data on usage of town owned stations. Info provided from the ChargePoints found that usage continues to increase. The longest charges are done at the Vets Field.

EVWatts program:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53b2d171e4b058cbcb895ac5/t/5e5d17c0936de84167491678/1583159233218/EVWATTS-Project-Summary.pdf>

DPW Update

J. Conway reported that the town's rooftop PV hit 14megawatt hour, see website for performance data

<https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/kiosk?guid=do2f3aaa-a9a3-4ab2-afeg-13b318d35ae4>

He also reported that the homeowner did the required replanting at Crystal Lake. He attended PBC that R. Greenberg attended and he thought her suggestion was well received.

**Clean Lake
Committee
Update**

No recent meetings

**Future Agenda
Items**

Next month, ESC plans to discuss potential Earth Day April 22 events/ activities. Initial ideas include potential for assist in lake clean up.

Other News

Community Garden lottery application started on Monday. See town rec department website.

Next Meetings

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 7pm.

**Committee
Meeting
Adjournment**

J. Smith-Galvin motion to adjourn. M. Session second. R. Darnell performed roll call for approve to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -