



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 13, 2021
7:00 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
Joe Conway, DPW rep (voting rep)
Nick Pilleri, Student Liaison
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann Waitt, DPW alternate rep
Uma Gerweck, Student Liaison
Abby Lane, Student Liaison

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by R. Darnell.

Public Participation

Carol Zoubek congratulated the committee on getting stretch code passed.
R. Darnell lead a discussion on when/how public participation is done. T. Boettcher noted that it is the chair's choice to offer public participation during different topics discussion.

Approval of Minutes

M. Sessions motioned to approve April's notes with the spelling error fixed. M. Hajjar second. S. Veilleux abstained. Motion passed.

ESC New Appointment Review

The Town received seven 7 applicants for the three open spots on the ESC. ESC committee members are looking for appicates that are: interested in engaging community members, show level of commitment on the issues, their availability, their passion, have transferable skill(s) that committee lacks (i.e. grant writing), and their educational background related to sustainability issues.
ESC members were impressed with all applicants and applicants are encouraged to stay involve with the ESC and our current and future efforts.
ESC members send their comments on applicants to R. Darnell who will compile them and submit them to the Town Council for their reference as they make the selections.

Future of ESC

ESC members had a brief discussion on ESC's future tasks and goals. Ideas that were suggested include:

- Relook at Framework



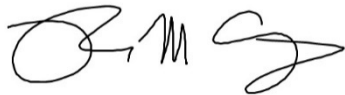
- Support town parks
- Encourage deurbanization with removal of concrete and additional trees and plantings
- Continue to look at waste reduction
- Relook at Resilience survey
- Support bike planning. The town received a grant on bike.
- Support the Youth Council as they look at sidewalks

S. Veilleux suggested creating subcommittees that would be working sessions on a focused issue. Public members can join subcommittees as subject matter expert.

Social Media Next Steps	M. Session shared a draft of a social media calendar based on committee member suggestions. Her goal is to have two post per week on Facebook. Future posts will include ESC member profiles. Posts will be careful not to endorse a product or provider. R. Darnell will find out if businesses can be listed if ESC finds that they demonstrate good practice. Students suggested that the ESC also have an Instagram account. At future meetings, committee members can review the potential topics for the upcoming calendar.
Waste Reduction Updates	DPW is looking for future grant opportunities for additional free or reduced compost bin costs when the state waste reduction grant is used up. Over 50% of the free start kits has been distributed. Bulk cardboard collection container has been ordered for the Yard Pit and collection expected to start July 1, 2021. Bulk curbside fee starts on July 2, 201.
Green Communities Act (GCA)	J. Smith-Galvin shared that the Town Meeting approved the Stretch Code. TC is working on their purchase policy. Next step is addressing how we will reduce energy by 20%.
Land Protection	M. Hajjar is having planning meeting with J. Conway on evaluate options at the Town Forest.
Safe Streets Group	J. Smith-Galvin shared that SSG is still in the process of Safe Routes to Schools follow up. The group now has a Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/Safe-Streets-Working-Group-Wakefield-104701461760300
Committee Collaborations	R. Greenberg has virtually attended some recent Permanent Building Committees. No news to share. She will reach out to the Planning Board on collaboration opportunities.
Earth Day Events	ESC thanked M. Sessions on her a great job on social media around Earth Day.
Student Member comments	No comments
Wakefield Public Schools (WPS) Update	S. Veilleux share that the schools are still working on whether a waiver request on Styrofoam will be needed because school is still working to determine if federal COVID funding can help purchase the non-Styrofoam goods. S. Veilleux is the new chair of the School Committee and will remain the school rep on ESC.

Town Council (TC) Update	<p>J. Smith-Galvin is the new chair of the Town Council. They will review ESC candidates at their May 24th meeting. She requested that R. Darnell attend a future meeting to update ESC on their efforts in the last year. Also, at a future TC meeting will be a preliminary assessment of the electrical vehicle charging station pilot program.</p> <p>The town with WCAT is creating a video on plastic and they are looking for a narrator(s) with the provided scripts. People interested should notify J. Smith-Galvin.</p>
WMGLD Update	<p>T. Boettcher is the new chair of WMGLD board.</p> <p>WMGLD is working with TC and Town Hall on installing new street light posts in downtown area. The lights will be LED and dark sky compliant.</p> <p>The board is discussing offering Green Choice for rates. Residents could opt-in for 100% non-carbon.</p> <p>Martha Vineyard off-shore wind farm passed a federal regulatory step. WMGLD is interested into getting power from the 800 mega watts farm.</p>
DPW Update	See waste reduction above.
Clean Lake Committee Update	No news
Other News	J. Smith-Galvin shared that the Peabody power plant (gas/oil) project is on pause based on received public feedback.
Next Meetings	The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7pm.
Committee Meeting Adjournment	R. Darnell motion to adjoin. J. Smith-Galvin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -