



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 10, 2021  
7:00 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rob Darnell, 2020-2021 Chair, 2021-2022  
Vice Chair  
Myra Sessions, 2021-2022 Chair  
Mary Hajjar, 2020-2021 Vice Chair  
Robin Greenberg, Secretary  
Dan Noren  
Melissa Eusden  
Tom Boettcher, WMGLD rep  
Ann Waitt, DPW alternate rep  
Nick Pilleri, Student Liaison  
Uma Gerweck, Youth Council rep  
Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Abby Lane, Student Liaison  
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison  
Addie Festel, Student Liaison  
Joe Conway, DPW rep  
Sean Cash  
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep

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

<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by R. Darnell.
<b>Public Participation</b>	<p>Shyan Ong was wondering potential for the return of the food rescue program in the schools for the 2021-2022 school year.</p> <p>Carol Zoubek is inquiring about town limiting the hours of use of noisy gas-powered leaf blowers and/or total banned on use.</p>
<b>Welcome New Members</b>	Current and new members introduced themselves.
<b>Board Organization</b>	<p>R. Darnell nominated M. Session as Chair. He is unable to rerun for Chair because of concerns of complying with the public meeting law in-person chair requirements in the future. M. Hajjar second. Motion passed.</p> <p>R. Greenberg motioned for R. Darnell to be Vice Chair, M. Session second. Motion passed.</p> <p>R. Darnell motion for R. Greenberg to remain secretary, S. Veilleux second. Motion passed.</p>
<b>Approval of May Minutes</b>	R Darnell motioned. M. Sessions second. Motion passed with some members abstaining.



**School Civics Projects**

S. Veilleux shared that there has been interest by the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for their civic projects to be sustainability topics, including. waste reduction and recycling at schools, land conservation, lake trash clean up around the lake, and providing solar panels on WMHS. Andy Bray, S. Veilleux, R. Darnell, and M. Sessions met with students about the issues and talked about how town and state governments can support.

D. Noren shared a story of his experience on getting a grant to get kids into a special astrophysics MIT summer program. He looks forward supporting students on sustainable issues.

**Discussion of ESC Priorities and Subcommittees**

MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) grant completed by the town divided the framework into six categories. They appear on the dashboard by category. R. Darnell generated a spreadsheet cross-referencing the MVP framework and ESC efforts in the last two years so we can establish goals for the ESC on expanding the efforts and opportunities, i.e., reduce waste and food rescue, and advocating for drinking fountains with bottle filling stations around the Lake so can establish goals for the ESC on expanding the efforts and opportunities. Below are notes on the discussing each category:

Water Resources – Clean Lake committee was formed to create a by-law to further protect the lake’s watershed. TBD if the CLC will move forward with their charge because the committee has not met recently.

Climate Change- \$300 donation buys a tree for an exact location or general installation in town. M. Eusden suggested community tree planting event as a way to get more residents interested in donating. A. Waitt estimates that the DPW gets one donation each month to the program. M. Hajjar noted lack of recent advertisement of the program. ESC’s website and social media accounts can help promote it. More info on the program:

<https://www.wakefield.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf3986f/uploads/wakefield-communitree-program-form.pdf>

In the year 2020-2021, DPW did not plant any new trees because the tree budget was depleted to address tree clean up after the summer 2020 microburst storm. WMGLD tree planting program is also available. Promotion and organizing an event could be done under ESC’s goal of Community Engagement. Potential grants available are unknown.

Community Resilient - n/a to ESC.

Waste Management – A goal can be to have the Americal Civic Center become a zero waste facility with recycling and composting.

Energy Resources – Efforts around education on electrical and gas usage, current applicable town by-laws, and meeting GCA requirements will be done to address ER.

Community Engagement – ESC use of social media and occasional newspaper articles is the current Community Engagement. Committee’s past effort include participation in Festival by the Lake.

S. Veilleux noted that school related goals be limited to addressing Styrofoam ban and growth of civics projects for the immediate future.

A. Waitt will find out the status of adding bottle filling stations at the drinking fountains in public recreation areas.

R. Darnell suggested five ESC goals for the town:

1. Get GCA application approved by end of 2021. Subcommittee addressing: Steve Maio, R. Darnell, Town Building Inspector Ben DeChristofo, J. Conway, J. Smith-Glavin and WMGLD Commissioner J Kallay.
2. Generate energy performance standards (i.e. EUI goals) for municipal projects goal with collaboration with the Permanent Building Committee and WMHS working group.
3. Have capital planning project include conversion of municipal buildings to be zero emissions. DPW is assembling a report on 2020-2021 HVAC energy savings updates done to respond to COVID.
4. Establish zero waste aspirational goals in all municipal owned buildings. Andy noted Zero Waste Community Principles, <https://zwia.org/zero-waste-community-principles/>. City of Boston bought in consultants to assist the city on how to get to zero waste.
- 5a. Address land protection – long term effort. Ideas: general review of zoning, impacts/ limits of development, how do we compare to other communities?, establishing FAR (floor area ratio) limits and limiting permeability on lots.
- 5b. Watershed protection – TBC if CLC will address

Committee members will review ideas, identify what is missing and what are you interested in participating in.

**Waste Reduction  
Updates  
Green  
Communities Act  
(GCA)**

Delivery of cardboard container in the Pit schedule is TBD.

R. Darnell shared that at the June 28 Town Council, they will be addressing and potentially voting to adopt a vehicle emissions policy. If accepted, it would then go to WPS and WMGLD for their vote of support.

T. Boettcher reported that WMGLC has been making good progress on getting the baseline info assembled.

**Land Protection**

M. Hajjar shared that protecting land would be a safety net for public land so it does not get sold to a developer. It is a long-term consideration. Meeting about implication of transferring the land from DPW to ConComm via Article 97 protection. Where are at moderate risk lands in town? Next steps to see Master Plan’s results when it is available. Suggested subcommittee would include

	ConComm members and others. In a recent meeting with Bill and J. Conway, they thought that the idea had potential knowing that future reasonable accommodations of easements may be needed.
<b>Safe Streets Group Committee Collaborations</b>	No news  ESC has potential opportunities to collaboration with ZBA, Planning, ConComm, CLC and others.
<b>ESC Social Media Student Member comments</b>	No news N. Pilleri is going to record the by-law video. U. Gerweck is up for reelection on Youth Council.
<b>Wakefield Public Schools (WPS) Update</b>	S. Veilleux shared that WPS is going to request a waiver because the schools are not going to be meeting 100% of the plastic reduction by-law. She will follow up with J. Smith-Galvin on next steps.
<b>Town Council (TC) Update WMGLD Update</b>	No news  T. Boettcher shared that the board voted and approved new Green Choice option which allows residents to opt-in for additional cost per kW rate in order to buy 100% non-carbon electricity. This past week's heat led to four 'peak events'. If you participate in Shave the Peak, energy reduction was requested.  WMGLD is looking into alternative gas systems for the future, i.e. town geothermal piping and creating a microgrid for the WMHS, NMRVHS, and Woodview Elementary Schools is being explored with a battery backup.
<b>DPW Update</b>	A. Waitt shared that 121 residents have signed up for compost, and 122 rain barrels and 50 backyard composters were purchased this year.
<b>Clean Lake Committee (CLC) Update</b>	No news
<b>Wakefield Farmers Market</b>	Wakefield Farmers Market starts next Saturday. ESC will get a table on the non-profit table during the season for community outreach.
<b>Next Meetings</b>	The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7pm.
<b>Committee Meeting Adjournment</b>	R. Darnell motion to adjoin. M. Sessions seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Greenberg', written above a horizontal line.

Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -