



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Myra Sessions, Chair
Robin Greenberg, Secretary
Mary Hajjar
Dan Noren
Melissa Eusden
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep
Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep
Tom Boettcher, WMGLD rep
Joe Conway, DPW rep
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Darnell, Vice Chair
Ann Waitt, DPW alternate rep
Sean Cash
Uma Gerweck, Youth Council rep
Nick Pilleri, Student Liaison
Abby Lane, Student Liaison
Addie Festel, Student Liaison

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m by M. Session.
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

Public Participation

Carol Zoubek shared that the volunteer Clean Lake group's effort continue. Since their initial clean up, they have observed less litter when they revisited areas previously visited by the group.

Shyan Ong looking for resources on how to recycle To Go containers. M. Eusden suggested looking into Terra Cycle. www.terracycle.com

Approval of Minutes

R. Greenberg motion to approve the June meeting notes with M Eusden's edits. Edits addresses typos and grammatical errors. M. Hajjar second. Motion passed.

2021-2022 Committee Priorities & Committee Structure

M. Sessions lead a discussion on potential priorities of ESC and who can lead each effort. Priorities were discussed as they relate to the Town's MVP Categories. (<https://www.wakefield.ma.us/envision-wakefield-resilient/files/mvp-resilience-evaluation-framework>)

- Addressing water quality @ Lake Quannapowitt. J. Smith-Galvin noted that the Clean Lake Committee might not be having meetings and William Renault, Town Engineer, is leading the effort. Planning Board (PB) is debating a potential lake overlay district that would include restrictions within the new overlay. Creation of the district will need Town Meeting approval J. Smith Galvin suggested that if the PB proposes the new district, that PB come to ESC to present the idea prior to TM.



- Becoming a Green Community. Tentatively scheduled for Sept 13th, Town Council (TC) will be voting on vehicle policy as required by GCA. The goal is that GCA requirements be met by end of 2021. There is no vote scheduled yet for School Committee (SC) or WMGLC for approval of their vehicle policy. WMGLC will likely adopt town's policy in lieu of generating their own policy. Prior to SC's vote, the policy will need to be vented by the SC's Policy & Communications and Finance & Facilities subcommittees.
- Promotion and implementation of the Styrofoam and plastic reduction bylaws: M. Sessions noted S. Brown and N. Pilleri great job on PSA created by WCAT. (<https://youtu.be/FOzW3FXGoA4>) M. Eusden has working on the implications of the bylaws with town Economic Development Director and Town Communications staff. J. Smith-Galvin suggested ESC have a table at Festival on the Lake on October 2, to talk about reduced waste. The Senior Center and WPS are still looking into how they can comply with the bylaws. S. Veilleux shared that procurement of compostable trays is currently difficult because of supply chain issues. S. Veilleux will invite Danielle Collins, town School Nutrition Director, to attend a future ESC meeting. The current implementation date of the bylaws is January 1, 2022.
- Advocating for efficient renovated and new town facilities. At a future meeting, R. Greenberg will share some ideas the committee could consider for advocacy as it pertains to the WMHS project. M. Eusden has experience with being involved in the design of add/renovation project at Somerville High School.
- Planting Trees – M. Eusden and S. Cash are interested in leading advocating for this effort.
- Supporting town building going to zero waste and food rescue. Food rescue at all schools continue to be on pause due to COVID safety protocol. J. Smith-Galvin is interested in talking to the staff at the Americal about zero waste opportunities. J. Conway is open to consider collecting compost in the town offices. J. Conway noted a local business recently communicated with the town about changing their waste vendor. After the call, they are now exploring a contract including Black Earth. ESC recommended that this story is would be a great case study to share with other businesses.
- Protecting town land. ESC sees the town's Butler Ave property as an opportunity for open space. The Town is working on the remediation effort that is required prior to the land being used. It was suggested that the property be included in the bike study that is underway.

- Modifying the zoning regulations – T. Boettcher is interested in recommending that the town adopt the EV Ready stretch code as a zoning article. Folks expressed interest in the zoning be evaluated for equity, and reduction of heat island through cool pavement requirements, etc. J. Conway noted that the town is working on addressing stormwater efforts, ie. use of porous pavement, on town projects. Incorporating use of porous pavement could be a requirement for private project as a zoning article
- Increase public engagement.

M. Hajjar suggested making sure that we understand that there are both short- and long-term goals.

**Green
Communities Act
(GCA)
Community
Clean-Up Day**

See note above.

M. Sessions suggested that there be a town wide clean-up day. M Eusden supports the idea. S. Brown noted that based on prior discussions, she expected a lot of interest by the high school. She suggested the day include predetermined locations for folks to meet up. M. Session has contacted Keep Massachusetts Beautiful for suggestions and resources. www.keepmassbeautiful.org Having the event in April 2022 to coincide with Earth Day would suggested. M. Session, M Eusden and S. Brown are interested to organizing it. This effort may become an ESC subcommittee.

J Conway is interested in establishing Adopt-a-Hydrant and Adopt-a-Catch Basin programs. When adopted, the person/organization would make sure the hydrant is clear of snow and the catch basin is clear of trash, leaves, etc.

**Student Member
comments**

No comments

**Wakefield Public
Schools (WPS)
Update**

See above

**Town Council (TC)
Update**

J. Smith-Galvin shared that TC entered into an agreement with MBTA on reduced cost fares for students. Fall Town Meeting may be Saturday, November 6, 2021. TC is expected to vote on the date.

WMGLD Update

T. Boettcher highlighted that Light Department won an award by the American Public Power Association's Smart Energy Provider (SEP) program. SEP recognizes utilities for demonstrating commitment to and accomplishment in smart energy program planning, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and communication and customer experience.

WMGLD is evaluating their current energy efficiency rebate program and are looking for public input.

WMGLD now offers Your Power, Your Choice. When customers join, they will pay an additional \$0.02213/kw-hr to cover the costs of department to purchase 100% non-carbon emitted power. For the average home using 750 kWA, it means an additional \$17 per month to participate. <http://wmgld.com/energy-programs/go-green-with-green-choice/>

There is evidence of Shave the Peak outreach program made a difference on this summer's really hot days when there was highest energy demand.

DPW Update

J. Conway shared that the town received a \$45K street grant to work on the Floral Way for accessible (ADA) enhancements and drainage improvements. <https://www.wakefield.ma.us/home/news/wakefield-receives-grant-to-improve-accessibility-on-floral-way>

Bulk items practice changed as of July. Since the change, they have sold 600 stickers as required for bulk items. Previously, they averaged 700 stops a month for a bulk item pick up. <https://www.wakefield.ma.us/home/news/20-bulk-item-fee-begins-july-5>

Town corrugated box collection container is available at the Town Pit. A Pit pass is not required to drop off corrugated boxes. They have already collected 1 ton for recycling. <https://www.wakefield.ma.us/home/news/new-cardboard-drop-off-option-at-nahant-yardwaste-site-o>

Black Earth has picked up 16,500 bins year to date in Wakefield. There are currently 335 active households; 154 new folks since May. The average of 14 tons of food waste per week is collected. <https://blackearthcompost.com/>

Simply Recycling practices have changed. Residents now need to contact them for collection in lieu of pick up on recycling days. <https://simplerecycling.com/massachusetts-clothing-recycling-pickups/>

Clean Lake Committee Update

See above

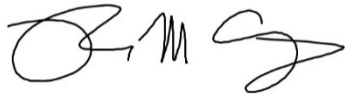
Peabody Power Plant

M. Eusden shared that Mass Climate Action Network (MCAN) is advocating for towns that have contracted to buy power from the plant to have their health departments to advocate for the state to complete a regional health impact study. J. Smith-Galvin shared that a few years ago, there was a meeting about the plant with Town Council, WMGLD, and Health Department. J. Smith-Galvin suggested a joint public meeting with Board of Health to discuss further.

Next Meetings The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 7pm.

Committee Meeting Adjournment M. Sessions motioned to adjourn. J.Smith-Galvin second. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: 2021-22 Priorities - DRAFT

Wakefield Environmental Sustainability Committee -- 2021-2022 Priorities					
ESC Priority/ Opportunity	Related MVP Category	Lead Entity	ESC Role	Priority?	ESC Committee Lead
Ongoing Initiatives					
Improve the water quality in Lake Quannapowitt, including watershed	Water Resources	Clean Lake Committee (CLC)	ESC representative on CLC when it meets, connect with Planning Board on bylaw changes		Rob Darnell
Achieve Green Communities Recognition by end of 2021	Multiple	Green Communities Subcommittee	ESC representative(s) on Green Communities Subcommittee		Rob Darnell, Julie Smith-Galvin
Implement styrofoam ban and plastic reduction bylaws	Waste Management	Town Administrator	ESC Support for (LEAD?) education, follow-up on by-laws		Melissa Eusden
Wakefield buildings are constructed to be energy efficient (i.e. high school, all building updates)	Energy Resources	Permanent Building Committee	ESC to advocate for investments in energy efficiency		Robin Greenberg
Potential New Priorities					
Increase tree resources in Wakefield through enhanced public engagement --donations, tree plantings, public education, engagement, micro-grants	Climate Change	ESC to lead public engagement, DPW to conduct plantings/ tree maintenance	LEAD: Coordination of public event, participation		
Town buildings become zero waste	Waste Management	ESC to coordinate with impacted town departments	LEAD: Coordination with impacted departments on waste management		Potential: Rob Darnell
Increase energy efficiency, conserve energy when possible	Energy Resources	WMGLD	ESC to support on education, engagement of community		

ESC Priority/ Opportunity	Related MVP Category	Lead Entity	ESC Role	Priority?	ESC Committee Lead
Land protection -- assure protected land status of Wakefield green spaces. Are public lands protected appropriately? Do people know what the resources are? Are the public lands appropriately accessible? Is possible/ appropriate to protect some of Butler Ave property?		ESC	LEAD: ESC to coordinate, bring by-law change to Town Meeting		Potential: Mary Hajjar, Sean Cash
Review of zoning regulations for environmental impact of development, Floor to Area Ratio, etc		ESC	LEAD: ESC to conduct review of our zoning regulations in comparison to other towns, consider proposed changes		
Community Litter Clean-Up Day Event		ESC	LEAD: planning and execution of the day - Spring		Myra Sessions, Sophie Brown
Committee communications and public education		ESC	LEAD: Social media presence and communication, public engagement in priorities		Myra Sessions
Future Initiatives					
<i>Food rescue, enhanced recycling and composting in schools</i>	<i>Waste Management</i>	<i>ESC</i>	LEAD: ESC to lead re-implementation of programs (with community volunteers)	<i>Delayed to future time -- no volunteers in schools for time being</i>	<i>N/A</i>