



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Eusden, Chair  
Myra Sessions, Vice Chair  
Robin Greenberg, Secretary  
Sean Cash  
Dan Noren  
Chris Lewis  
Tiana Veldwisch  
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep  
Thomas Boettcher, WMGLD rep  
Ann Waitt, DPW rep proxy

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

open, School Committee rep  
Abby Lane, Student Liaison  
Sophie Brown, Student Liaison  
Addie Festel, Student Liaison  
Nick Pilleri, Student Liaison  
Uma Gerweck, Youth Council rep

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

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by M. Eusden.  
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

#### Public Participation

No comment

#### Approval of May Minutes

R. Greenberg motioned to approve with T. Veldwisch edits incorporated. M. Session second. Motion passed.

#### Mission Statement, Procedures, & Processes to Engage Volunteers

D. Noren shared an updated on his thinking about ESC volunteers. The intent is to use the volunteers to support the committee's agenda and tasks. He offered to be the Volunteer Manager and help match volunteer's interest and experience to ESC assignments.

He suggested that an application could be a way for the volunteer to share their interest and experience. Suggestions to help make it less formal included a questionnaire, sign up, contact list, or intake form so we can assemble potential interested residents. ESC member's concerns about making a too formal process to be taken under consideration as the effort progresses.

Members support D. Noren being the Volunteer Manager

Next steps:

- ESC offer suggestions on where/how ESC's need for volunteers



- Create information package on ESC for volunteers
- D. Noren distribute draft amended ESC Mission Statement (approval anticipated at next meeting) to include mention on volunteers

**Electric Charging and Solar Readiness By-laws**

T. Boettcher shared that Electric Charging and Solar Readiness by-laws that were under development by Wakefield residents including himself is similar to draft of Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) amended Building Energy Code's Specialized Opt-in Code. For now, the group has decided to not proceed with drafting Wakefield by-laws on the issues. He shared DOER's presentation on proposed code changes which can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3xewfkG>

Next steps by the state are:

- Legislators/DOER finalize the language for the updated Stretch and Specialized Codes
- Legislators vote to approve the bills
- Governor signs them. At this point, applicable projects in Wakefield would need to meet the updated Stretch Code.
- Wakefield would need to have the Specialized Code brought to a future Wakefield Town Meeting (potential Spring 2023) for residents approval to accept these additional provisions. The town approval process would be the same as the town completed for the Stretch Code.

**ESC Subcommittees/ Working Group**

M. Eusden shared ESC's priorities developed for 2021-2022. It was noted that subcommittees must follow Open Meeting laws. J. Smith-Galvin will share access to Town Counsel's presentation for town committees on understanding Open Meeting Laws.

Next Steps:

- J. Smith-Galvin will share the town's priorities
- M. Eusden will share priorities matrix for member's comments for 2022-2023
- D. Noren offered to reformat matrix based on town's priorities

**Waste Reduction Subcommittee**

M. Eusden signed the town up for new Trex bench challenge. Home Depot is no longer participating in accepting the bags. A. Waitt is trying reaching out to Shaw's, Melrose's Whole Foods, and other area grocery stores to see if they will work with Wakefield DPW on collecting and shipping plastic bags back to Trex.

M. Session will communicate with school department on status of town/school committee's acceptance of the donated bench and then the schedule to install it.

M. Eusden on behalf of ESC purchased three more TerraCycle collection boxes for the remaining received plastics collected at the May recycling event.

**Land Use Subcommittee**

No news

**Student Members**

No news

**School Building Projects**

R. Greenberg shared that there have been no recent meetings for Northeast Metro Tech (NEMT) School project. For the Wakefield Memorial High School (WMHS), no news.

She also shared that at the recent MA School Building Authority (MSBA) forum on Green School Buildings for Massachusetts Students included learning about how Saugus Middle/High School achieved LEED Platinum and the value of having a HVAC Operator staff member for a new school. A "Building Operator is part of a team which oversees the daily operations and management of public school buildings throughout the municipality. Responsibilities will include energy conservation measures, facility scheduling, post construction issues, maintenance, and facility functions. The Building Operator will oversee all HVAC, lighting, plumbing, elevator service and security systems etc." (From draft Job Description provided at the training). She hopes that Wakefield is looking have add a full time Building Operator to support the new high school to make sure that it works as designed. To learn more, go to <https://tinyurl.com/456pykab>

**School Committee Liaison Update**

No news

**Town Council Liaison Update**

J. Smith-Galvin shared that the Town Council (TC) had their annual retreat. Their discussion included the high school project, spending of ARPA funding, open space/ recreation (i.e. better sidewalks, better walkability), trees, and Envision Downtown, and housing (resident retention).

Butler Ave property, land purchased back by the town, is still in the process of being capped and the DEP permit application is in progress. Next step will be for the town to decide what to do with the property.

TC and School Committee voted on the Green Community submission of the application to the state.

**WMGLD Liaison Update**

T. Boettcher shared the WMGLD does not plan to extend the natural gas moratorium to single family residents at this time.

They have been working with Northeast Metro Tech School (NEMT) and a draft of a Moratorium Of Understanding on the energy park plan is under review. The department will provide 5 EV stations (10 car capacity), install solar panels, and other energy initiatives to the school.

**DPW Liaison Update**

Ann Waitt shared that there are now 400 Black Earth subscribers in Wakefield and less than twenty free starter kits are remaining available. DPW is working on a DEP grant application on solid waste and recycling. The cardboard dumpster, located at the Pit, is emptied weekly. They are considering additional promotion of cardboard recycling at the Pit.

**Festival of the Lake**

The Festival is Saturday. J. Smith-Galvin will be there with Safe Streets. MWRA's water truck will be there to provide water.

**Safe Streets Sunday**

From 12-4pm, Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> is SafeStreets Sunday in Wakefield. To celebrate, south bound lanes of Main Street and Church Street will be closed for cars and available for walkers, bikes, etc. The event will also include helmet fittings and potentially a bike repair clinic.

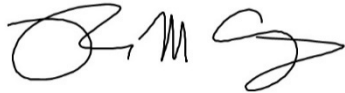
**Next Meeting**

The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, at 7pm.

**Committee Meeting Adjournment**

J. Smith-Galvin motioned to adjoin. M. Session second. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: -