

**Town of Washington
Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10th, 2024
5:00 PM Meeting via Zoom and Main Level Meeting Room**

Members Present: Monique Gil-Rodgers, Amy Dyer, Hugh Rogers, Carole Matteo

Members Absent: Brian Hagenbuch, Chris Charles

Staff Present: Michelle Gorra

Visitors: Anne Jamieson (Voices)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:01 PM By Jay
2. **Approval of March minutes:** Jay made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Monique. The vote was all in favor.
3. **Earth Day and the Sustainability Committee Newsletter-** Michelle passed around the Sustainability /Earth Day Newsletter to the committee to look at it. She said it will be going out into the mail next week. Jay thanked everyone on the committee who wrote an article. Michelle asked the committee if they'd like to have the newsletter formatted for an email and the Committee agreed. Amy noted we should add the PDF of the newsletter to the Sustainability Website.

Earth Day Event will be 9-2PM at Judy Black Park. There will be live music and a number of local organizations will be there. Michelle has started working on a form for the release of information for water well testing results from anyone who gets their water tested. She noted that she had sent the form to the town's attorney for review. There will be a dumpster in front of town hall beginning April 18th for people to use for their earth day clean up. Monique mentioned we should use the green smaller banner on the dumpster so the public knows they can use it.

4. **Update on Current Action Items**
 - A. **LISD-** Jay reported there will be a meeting next week, to decide who to hire to write the LISD manual. The end result will be a manual that will be an appendix to our zoning regulations-
 - B. **Lake Waramaug-** There will be a meeting at the Town Hall on April 17th, to go over the survey on the use of the lake. Residents of all 3 towns have been invited, the next step will be a study over the summer to study the effect of Wake Boats, on the lake
 - C. **Composting-** Jay reported that the town is still looking to put in a composting system at the Transfer Station. He said we need DEEP come to a meeting with other towns and explain the process of what to do since it's such a tedious and long process.
 - D. **Other businesses to come before the committee:**

Amy showed a photo of a "No Unnecessary Idling Sign" to show the committee an option that another town has used to promote no idling. She's also going to take a picture of the sign in Bethlehem. Amy mentioned she was willing to design something for the idling signs.

Amy asked the committee if we could reconsider a noise ordinance, Jay stated the Board of Selectmen approved a policy related to construction noise. He pointed out that the State prohibits noise ordinances that effect landscaping companies. Michelle noted that local Landscapers have to pay property tax on their equipment and maybe the town could over them a property tax break for purchasing electrical equipment. but it could be a good incentive to them, if the landscapers are using electric equipment would it be possible to make them tax exempt? Amy suggested that we should bring some electric landscaping equipment to the Earth Day booth to show and inform the public about them. Jay stated it would be a great idea

Public Comment- none at this time

6. Adjournment; Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6: 06 pm, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale

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Sustainability Clerk

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzYbru-yIE>