

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 11, 2023**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Hubelbank, Mr. Charles, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, Ms. Matteo, Ms. Frank  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Rowe, Mr. Hagenbuch, Ms. Dyer  
STAFF: Mr. Buell, Ms. Gorra

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

Mr. Hubelbank welcomed Ms. Frank to the Committee and explained that she had joined as a representative from the Conservation Commission.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: To accept the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes as written. By Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo, passed unanimously.

**Update on Action Items:**

**Transfer Station/Recycling**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that new signage would soon be installed at the transfer station. He then informed the Committee that community members had already begun glass recycling and that work to create a secondary drop off location for glass recyclables was ongoing. Further discussion on recycling, composting, and public outreach regarding the transfer station ensued. Mr. Hubelbank reminded the Committee that the new glass recycling program would not be included within curbside recycling services.

**Idling Campaign**

Ms. Gorra stated that she had shared the design of the banner for the idling campaign with Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, who wished to bring the design to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. Further discussion on banners, finances, and mailings for the idling campaign ensued.

### **Low Impact Sustainable Development**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that a meeting had been held to discuss low impact sustainable development (LISD). He indicated that representatives from the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Land Use Office, Board of Selectmen, and others had been in attendance, and that everyone who had attended the meeting had agreed that the town should work to adopt LISD regulations.

Mr. Charles, who had also been in attendance, indicated to the Committee that he had reminded attendees that LISD guidelines would be regulations and not suggestions. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town would put together an RFP for developing LISD guidelines and that funding for this would be included within the town's budget. The Committee then discussed the need for public education on LISD guidelines.

### **Invasive Species**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that a meeting had been held to discuss invasive species management within the town. He stated that representatives from the Steep Rock Association had been in attendance and that they had suggested hiring interns to assist in identifying invasive species on town property. He went on to explain that these representatives had also suggested educating town crew employees on invasive species. Further discussion of invasive species management and education ensued.

Ms. Frank asked if the Committee was conducting public outreach on responsible energy usage. Mr. Hubelbank and Ms. Gorra informed indicated that the town is working to install municipal solar, track energy usage, and update town buildings to improve energy usage on town properties. Following this, the Committee discussed sustainable landscaping practices.

### **Farmers Assistance**

Ms. Matteo indicated that there had been discussion on a right to farm ordinance at a recent Planning Commission meeting. She explained that after looking into information provided by Ms. Dyer on agritourism, and reading town regulations, she felt that an ordinance supporting agritourism should be created. Ms. Gorra explained that she felt one of the most important "first steps" for this agenda item would be to better define farming within the town. She then reminded the Committee that at the farmers alliance meeting which had been held last year, local farmers had voiced a need for temporary housing for workers, signage, and expanded rights for agritourism.

### **Other Business to Come Before the Committee**

Following a brief discussion on agritourism, Ms. Matteo indicated that she had tried to speak with the Inland Wetlands Commission regarding wake boats, but had not been permitted to speak at their meeting. Mr. Buell informed the Committee that the Inland Wetlands Commission is granted authority under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (D.E.E.P.). Mr. Buell indicated that D.E.E.P. has not granted the Inland Wetlands

Commission the authority to regulate wake boats, which is why Ms. Matteo had not been allowed to speak with the Commission about wake boats at their meeting. Further discussion on the jurisdiction of wake boat regulation ensued.

**Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Sustainability Committee Clerk  
1-18-2023

A link to access a recording of this meeting is below.

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/Ej6uMI5EjKxDtgJfLratKQoB6dsLDWLsl4is5fQYVaKDCA?e=9jUnJp](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Ej6uMI5EjKxDtgJfLratKQoB6dsLDWLsl4is5fQYVaKDCA?e=9jUnJp)