

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 9, 2022**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

**Approval of Minutes of the last meeting**

Mr. Charles indicated that the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes did not adequately reflect the discussion on Low Impact Sustainable Development. He requested that this be amended to more accurately reflect the processes of adopting Low Impact Sustainable Development regulations.

Motion:	To accept the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes with the correction so noted by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed unanimously.
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**Update on Action Items**

- **Recycling**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the compact containers which had been ordered by the town for the transfer station had been built incorrectly and that discussion was ongoing to remedy this. Following this, Mr. Hubelbank stated that glass recycling had begun at the transfer station. He explained that with this change glass would be disposed of at no cost to the town, and that he hoped to also have a bin delivered to the town hall for glass recycling.

Ms. Gorra stated that she wished to publicize information on glass recycling and composting at the transfer station in the upcoming town newsletter. Mr. Bent asked if glass recycling would be available for curbside pickup, and was informed that this would not be offered. Following this, Mr. Bent asked if the town would be able to monitor the

effectiveness of the new glass recycling. A short discussion ensued during which Mr. Hubelbank expressed some of the difficulties in tracking this data due to the many changes which had been made at the transfer station. Following this discussion, Ms. Gorra stated that previously the town had paid for the disposal of all recyclables and that any use of the updated glass recycling system would save the town money.

- **Idling Campaign**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he had not attended the Board of Finance's meeting to discuss the Board of Selectman's request for funding for the proposed idling campaign. He explained that this item had been put on hold until he could explain the proposal to the Board of Finance. Mr. Hubelbank then stated that he also wished to conduct an educational campaign on invasive species. Mr. Hagenbuch explained some of the work which the Steep Rock Association had done regarding public education on invasive species, and the Committee discussed future projects related to this.

Ms. Matteo expressed concern regarding idling vehicles around Lake Waramaug and a brief discussion ensued.

- **Equity Toolkit**

The Committee discussed the meeting which Ms. Matteo had organized to address preserving water quality at Lake Waramaug. Ms. Matteo indicated that meeting attendees had not followed the original agenda and that she hoped to host a second meeting which would focus on this agenda. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Gorra stated that Ms. Matteo had done an excellent job at applying the equity toolkit to the event, and indicated that she hoped to find a way to apply this meeting towards Sustainable CT's action items. The Committee then discussed the definition of diversity.

- **Farmer's Assistance**

Following a brief introduction by Mr. Hubelbank, the Committee discussed the definition of agritourism. Ms. Gorra reminded the Committee that agritourism, signage, and temporary housing had been the biggest concerns voiced by farmers within the town of Washington. Ms. Gorra went on to explain that she wished to host another farmers forum so that farmers could discuss their concerns and needs. The Committee then discussed the three big concerns voiced by farmers previously, the definition of farming, and tax exceptions.

- **Housing**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that Habitat for Humanity would soon construct 2 houses for the Myfield Lane project. The Committee then briefly discussed the permitting process, and the design for these houses.

**Low Impact Development**

Mr. Hubelbank requested clarification on the necessary steps to adopt Low Impact Sustainable Development regulations within the town. Mr. Charles indicated that the Zoning Commission would need to approve Low Impact Sustainable Development guidelines as a part of the Zoning regulations. Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the best "first step" for this would be to have a meeting with

Mr. Hayden, the Board of Selectmen, and the Zoning, Planning, and Inland Wetlands Commissions.

**EV Charging Station**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town had applied for funding for the EV charging stations which would be installed throughout the town. The Commission then discussed concerns related to fires at electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Hubelbank clarified that electric vehicle batteries do potentially catch fire, and that EV charging stations do not.

**Other Business to come**

Ms. Gil-Rodgers asked for an update on the idling campaign due to the fact that she had joined the meeting late. Mr. Hubelbank provided this update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Sustainability Committee Clerk  
11-16-2022

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

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/Eq1YXLn2UUVAhxmOuXUcxjIBgidfD\\_kFGB56iiFV3hDY-A?e=VabWfl](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Eq1YXLn2UUVAhxmOuXUcxjIBgidfD_kFGB56iiFV3hDY-A?e=VabWfl)