

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 14, 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:	Ms. Frank, Ms. Zukauskas

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

**Approval of Minutes of the last meeting**

Ms. Matteo indicated that a typo had been made regarding when the November meeting had been adjourned, and asked that this be corrected.

Motion:	To accept the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes with the correction so noted by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.
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**Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar**

Motion:	To accept the 2023 meeting calendar by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed unanimously.
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**Update on Action Items**

- **Recycling**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that containers for the compactors had been delivered to the transfer station. He indicated that the town would conduct public outreach on the new services which were now available at the transfer station. He listed the compactors, separate glass recycling, and composting as examples of these expanded services. Mr. Hubelbank reminded the Committee that glass must be delivered directly to the transfer station for it to be recycled separately from the rest of recyclables. He went on to explain that the town hoped to have a separate glass collection container brought to the town hall which he felt would be more convenient for property owners who wish to recycle their glass separately. The Commission then

discussed community education on recycling, and public outreach for the renovations at the transfer station.

- **Idling Campaign**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that Ms. Gil-Rodgers and Ms. Gorra had met to discuss the proposed idling campaign. He indicated that the Washington Environmental Council had agreed to assist in this campaign. The Committee then discussed the creation of post cards, banners, and sandwich boards to educate the public on idling vehicles. Ms. Gorra shared the post cards and sandwich board designs with the Committee.

- **Equity Toolkit**

Ms. Gorra and Ms. Matteo informed the Committee that work regarding this agenda item was ongoing.

- **Farmer's Assistance**

Ms. Gorra and Ms. Dyer indicated that no progress had been made on this agenda item. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he felt the Board of Selectmen would be in favor of assisting farmers with the items which had been discussed at the last farmers alliance meeting. A brief discussion regarding signage, zoning regulations, and next steps for this agenda item ensued.

Mr. Hagenbuch informed the Committee that along with the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, the Steep Rock Association was working on a grant program sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to expand sustainable farm practices. Committee members listed a number of farms which they felt may be interested in participating in this program.

- **Housing**

Ms. Gorra informed the Committee that Habitat for Humanity had worked with the State Department of Housing to have all of the houses built for the Myfield Lane project be included in the appeals list for affordable housing. Following this, Ms. Gorra indicated that work on the Baldwin Hill housing project was ongoing.

The Committee then discussed the PA 21-29 Subcommittee which consists of representatives from the Zoning and Housing Commissions. Ms. Gorra explained why some felt that the town should opt out of these regulations.

- **Low Impact Development**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that community members had met to discuss the implementation of low impact development regulations within the town, and asked Mr.

Charles to provide an update on this meeting. Mr. Charles informed the Committee that Mr. Hileman, Chair of the Planning Commission, Mr. Papsin, Chair of the Inland Wetlands Commission, Jim Brinton, First Selectman, Mr. Bowman, the Building Inspector, and himself had met to discuss the need for low impact sustainable development regulations for Washington. He indicated that a second meeting would take place in January.

- **EV Charging Station**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the proposal for the EV Charging Station had turned out to be far more expensive than the town had initially been led to believe. He indicated that the town would look into new companies which construct these charging stations.

Following this, Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town was also looking into the installation of solar powered lights which would also be able to charge cell phones.

**Other Business to come**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that community members had met to discuss invasive species management within the town. He explained that a second meeting would occur in January. Following this, Ms. Frank provided an update on invasive species management at the New Preston Open Space. A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Gorra announced that the student that she was working with had finished creating the health equity analysis. The Committee then discussed the creation of a new Art Council within the town.

Mr. Charles indicated that the follow up meeting for low impact development would take place at 3:00 p.m. at January 10, 2023.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Sustainability Committee Clerk  
12-16-2022

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

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/Etwn38y6nutKi7dcGzK2DgYBiD0WEVeisPBResFD\\_Nwsvw?e=Q4y7k7](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Etwn38y6nutKi7dcGzK2DgYBiD0WEVeisPBResFD_Nwsvw?e=Q4y7k7)