

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 8, 2023**

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

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

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes for the January 11, 2023 meeting by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers, passed unanimously.

Update on Action Items:

Transfer Station/Recycling

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that signage had been installed at the transfer station and that work to implement composting services was ongoing. Further discussion regarding public outreach on the expanded services and the renovations at the transfer station ensued.

Idling Campaign

Ms. Gorra informed the Committee that she had not ordered signage for the idling campaign because discussion regarding the method of payment was ongoing. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he would speak with Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, regarding this.

Low Impact Sustainable Development

Mr. Charles informed the Committee that the next meeting on Low Impact Sustainable Development would be held at 3:00 on Tuesday, February 14th. The Committee then discussed an upcoming rain garden workshop.

Invasive Species

Mr. Hubelbank asked that Mr. Hagenbuch provide an update on the meeting which had been held to discuss invasive species management within the town. Mr. Hagenbuch informed the Committee that at this meeting they had discussed the possibility of hiring an intern to help locate invasive plant species on town property and map these invasive species on a GIS map. He went on to explain that this data could be used to prioritize the treatment of invasive plant species within the town. Discussion regarding public education on invasive species, and the spread of invasive plants and insects ensued.

- **Review and Possible Action on Invasive Species Letter to Local Nurseries**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the next item on the agenda was the review and possible action on a letter which had been drafted by Ms. Frank, the newest member of the Sustainability Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission, and Ms. Stagen who is also a member of the Conservation Commission. He indicated that this letter requests that local nurseries cease the sale of invasive species, and provides these businesses with a list of native alternatives to commonly purchased invasive plant species. Ms. Frank stated that in addition to this list, a sign would also be provided to local nursery owners which states “We do not sell Invasive plants” which could be put on display within these businesses for customers to see.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he wished for other town Commissions to review this letter so that when it is mailed, it will have the consideration and support of these groups. He listed the Board of Selectmen, Inland Wetlands Commission, and the Planning Commission as examples of Commissions. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hagenbuch suggested using the term “non-native invasive” instead of “invasive” in the letter.

The Committee then passed a motion supporting this letter.

Motion: The Sustainability Committee supports the idea of sending a letter out to area nurseries regarding non-native invasive species. By Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Farmer's Assistance

This item was not discussed by the Committee.

Other Business to come before the Committee

The Committee discussed regulating the use of wake boats on Lake Waramaug. Following this discussion, Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he would reach out to Shelley White, the Land Use Administrator for the Town of Washington, and the Lake Waramaug Taskforce to determine the best steps forward to implement regulations for these boats.

Ms. Gorra indicated that the Montessori School had reached out to her regarding an educational “fun fact of the week” which the school hoped to have included within the Selectman’s email. Ms. Gorra stated that she had spoken with Mr. Brinton regarding this and that he had been open to the suggestion. p

Mr. Charles asked Ms. Gorra for an update on the recently held Summit on Housing and Conservation which was held by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. Discussion on affordable housing, and this summit ensued.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
2-13-2023

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

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/EnRSAq632qNDu4ecJdAvXpoBzYt1gtDYKbqTIFQXv62Sxw?e=2gsgak