

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**April 12, 2023**

**5:00 P.M.                      Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference and Main Level Meeting Room**

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

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

**Regular Meeting:**

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion:                      To approve the minutes for the March 8, 2023 meeting as written. Motion  
   put forth by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed  
   unanimously.

**Updates:**

- **Earth Day**

The Committee discussed setting up a table for the Earth Day event which would have informational displays and handouts. Ms. Matteo indicated that the event would take place on 4-22-2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Ms. Gil-Rodgers stated that the Washington Environmental Council would also be in attendance for this event.

- **Idling Campaign**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the sandwich board for this campaign was currently in Washington Depot in front of the Washington Food Market, and this board would be relocated to the grass island in front of the Pantry restaurant, the Martys Café parking area, and New Preston in the coming weeks. A brief discussion ensued.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Gardenpalooza event which would be held at the Judy Black Memorial Park on May 20, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and how town Committees may use this event as an opportunity to provide public outreach.

- **LISD**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that the Land Use Department had been tasked with developing a R.F.P. for the creation of LISD regulations for the town, and indicated that funding for the development of these regulations had been included within the proposed 2023/2024 town budget.

The Committee then discussed the possibility of building a rain garden on town property which may be used to educate the public on how to properly construct and maintain a rain garden.

- **Invasive Species**

The Committee discussed public education on invasive plant species. Ms. Frank stated that the Conservation Commission would use the Gardenpalooza event as an opportunity to provide this education, and indicated that they would bring examples of invasive plants to this event so that attendees may see these plants first hand.

Ms. Dyer proposed creating handouts which have QR which would direct interested persons to the Steep Rock Association's website which contains a plethora of information on invasive plant species. Discussion ensued.

- **Wake Boats**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, had spoken with the First Selectmen from Warren and Kent to discuss the prohibition of wake boats on Lake Waramaug and explained that they had supported the idea. He stated that Ms. Matteo had drafted regulations for this prohibition and that a town attorney had reviewed the proposal. Following this explanation, Mr. Hubelbank stated that the proposed regulation would need to go to a town meeting for a vote.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town is also working to improve enforcement on the lake. He explained that the town budget would include funding to train and hire individuals who would be able to help monitor activity on the lake.

- **No Mow May**

Ms. Matteo stated that she had tried to find signs to advertise "No Mow May" but had encountered difficulties in finding adequate signage. She then explained that she had spoken with the Northwest Conservation District who had signage which she felt would be sufficient, and that they had offered to pay for half of the cost of this signage. Following this explanation, Ms. Matteo stated that the cost would be \$100.00 for 10 signs after the Northwest Conservation District's contribution.

Ms. Dyer stated that property owners who wish to participate in "No Mow May" can do so without dedicating their entire lawn towards this endeavor and that these homeowners may set aside a portion of their property for "No Mow May."

The Committee then discussed advertising "No Mow May" at the Earth Day event and in the town newsletter. Ms. Dyer shared a handout she had created to advertise "No Mow May" which contains a QR code with information on pollinator pathways.

- **Energy Usage**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he had not been able to look into whether or not the town may obtain information on energy usage town wide. He then explained that the town is collecting data from town owned properties and from the transfer station.

**Public Comment**

No public comment occurred.

**Other Business to come before the committee**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he felt that the Committee should not apply for Silver Certification through Sustainability CT because of the cumbersome nature of the application process.

He went on to explain that he felt that the Committee may use goals from Sustainability CT to guide the Committee in its effort to make positive changes within the town. Committee members agreed with Mr. Hubelbank' sentiment and briefly discussed future goals for the Committee.

The Committee discussed a recent presentation which had been hosted by Suzaki regarding the new Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship at the Frederick Gunn School. Mr. Charles expressed concern about the efficiency of this building and stated that the design team had been unable to state the HERS rating for the structure. Following this, the Committee discussed permitting fees for applications and how these fees may benefit the town.

**Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Sustainability Committee Clerk  
4-17-2023

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

[https://townofwashingtoncc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dsbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/Eq2EIsf3gU5MIkkACgdSr-ABfIAJSxwG3EurT8hBl86QA?e=kH1SgY](https://townofwashingtoncc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dsbuell_washingtonct_org/Eq2EIsf3gU5MIkkACgdSr-ABfIAJSxwG3EurT8hBl86QA?e=kH1SgY)