

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 10, 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.
 Matteo, Mr. Hagenbuch
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Dyer, Ms. Rowe
STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Buell, Ms. Gorra

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Discussion with Wayne Hileman regarding Sustainability and the New POCD

Mr. Hileman, Chair of the Planning Commission, informed the Committee that the chapter on sustainability in the upcoming update to the P.O.C.D. will be removed, and that sustainability will instead be integrated throughout the document.

Following this, Mr. Hileman indicated that discussions with town commissions are ongoing. A brief discussion regarding soil-based zoning practices, lot sizes, and affordable housing ensued.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that one item he would like to be addressed within the P.O.C.D. is the town's purchasing policy. He indicated that he wished for the town to use sustainable sources for office supplies, electric landscaping equipment, and electric or hybrid cars going forward.

Mr. Hileman informed the Committee that the P.O.C.D. would request that additional staff be hired to assist in offices like the Land Use Department. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he felt the town should consider paving the town's dirt roads because of the immense costs associated with maintaining dirt roads.

Ms. Gorra stated that the "Municipal Chapter" is more of an inventory, and that she felt this chapter can be expanded upon to include an energy component, pesticide usage for the highway department, road treatment information, and information on solid waste. Mr. Hileman indicated that this chapter and the chapter on Zoning had not yet been addressed by the Planning Commission. Ms. Frank asked for clarification on how Zoning regulations are modified, discussion ensued.

The Committee then discussed invasive species management. Mr. Hileman indicated that "all stakeholders" should sit down together to discuss this. He listed town staff, nonprofit organizations, the business community, and Commission members as stake holders, and indicated that he felt that

excluding any of these parties from a discussion on addressing invasive species management within the town would be a mistake.

Mr. Hileman indicated that the P.O.C.D. will also include the need to address natural disaster preparedness. He explained that due to the town's low population, Washington has historically been a low priority for Eversource during times of mass power outages, and explained that he felt that preparing for these natural disasters will be vital to prevent a humanitarian crisis in the future. He explained that the P.O.C.D. will request that a feasibility study be conducted regarding the possibility of building a microgrid within Washington.

The Committee then discussed the need for additional high-density housing within Washington, specifically around the village centers. Following this discussion, Mr. Hileman explained that fiberoptic internet service would be brought to most of Washington in the coming months, and described why cable and cell phone companies are not considered to be utilities from a legal standpoint.

Following this, the Committee briefly discussed the larger goals of the P.O.C.D., and enforcement and implementation of this document.

Updates on current actions

- **Idling Campaign**
The Committee discussed places to bring the sandwich board for this campaign and a typo which had been made on the banner. Ms. Gorra indicated that she felt that the Committee should speak with businesses prior to putting the sandwich board in front of businesses.
- **LISD**
Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that another meeting had occurred to discuss the development of LISD regulations for the town and explained that this item had been budgeted for. He indicated that the Land Use Department had created an RFP for a company to develop LISD regulations for the town.
- **Invasive Species**
The Committee discussed the article which would be published in the town newsletter regarding invasive plant species. Ms. Frank informed the Committee that the Conservation Commission would bring 3 invasive plant species to the Gardenpalooza event. Ms. Gorra shared some information she had found which could be distributed at this event.
- **Wake Boats**
Ms. Matteo indicated that the May 8th 2023 meeting regarding this agenda item had been canceled and had not been rescheduled. Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that a draft of the proposed ordinance had been sent to D.E.E.P. and discussion with Kent and Warren regarding the potential prohibition of wake boats at lake Waramaug was ongoing.

Discussion of Potential New Action Items

The Committee did not discuss this agenda item.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes for the April 12, 2023 meeting as written. Motion put forth by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed unanimously.

Other Business to come before the Committee

No other business was brought forth by the Committee.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
5-11-2023

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

https://townofwashingtoncc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Ei5mibuBzo9Kll1uQLCg_MIBQB-0D6TmrIZQ34QThogccw?e=exYdzH