

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 13, 2022**

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Introduction of Serena Levingston

Mr. Hubelbank introduced Ms. Levingston as an intern for the Northwest C.O.G. who had been assigned to assist the Town of Washington for several weeks.

Approval of Minutes

With no comments or corrections, a motion was passed to accept the minutes as written.

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| Motion: | To approve the minutes for the May 11, 2022 meeting by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Mr. Hubelbank, passed unanimously. |
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P.O.D.C. Work

Ms. Gorra indicated that she and Ms. Levingston had met with representatives from the Town of Kent who had worked on the P.O.C.D. for Kent. Discussion regarding funding for consultants to assist with the P.O.C.D. ensued. Following this discussion, Ms. Gorra stated that she had reviewed several recently published P.O.C.D.'s from towns which were registered by Sustainable Ct. Ms. Gorra explained that several of these P.O.C.D.'s focused on broad stroke themes and discussion regarding this ensued. Following this discussion, Ms. Gorra indicated that the Sustainability section of the P.O.C.D. should potentially focus on the broad ideas related to Sustainability.

Discussion regarding the focus of the P.O.C.D. ensued. Mr. Hubelbank suggested meeting with the Planning Commission to ensure that this Commission is on the same page as the Sustainability Committee regarding sustainability within the P.O.C.D. The Committee expressed agreement. Ms. Levingston suggested integrating specific actions from Sustainable Ct into the P.O.C.D.

Ms. Gorra indicated that the action item spreadsheet was being converted into a Google Doc by Ms. Levingston and herself. The Committee discussed the use of Google Docs going forward to track sustainability action items.

Ms. Dyer joined the meeting at this time.

Review of Action Items

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would like to review future action items for the Committee to consider in their endeavor to obtain silver certification through Sustainable Ct. Following this, the Committee reviewed a list of action items which Mr. Hubelbank had shared with the Committee. *This list will be included at the end of the minutes.*

Ms. Levingston indicated that she felt the Committee should meet with an equity coach, and explained that the Committee would need to submit 3 equity toolkits to obtain silver certification. Ms. Gorra explained her previous effort to apply the equity toolkit to the affordable housing plan. Discussion regarding equity ensued. Ms. Gorra suggested applying the equity toolkit to the upcoming P.O.C.D., and the development of a Health Equity Analysis for the town.

The next item on the Committee's list of items was "Thriving Local Economies." The Committee discussed the concept of a sustainable workforce. Mr. Charles expressed his belief that this subject was important because a number of residents had moved into Washington with no understanding, or regard, for the town's regulations. Mr. Charles was asked to look more deeply into this subject on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee then discussed "Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources." The Committee expressed concern regarding water consumption around Lake Waramaug. Ms. Gorra suggested using the upcoming town newsletter as a tool to educate residents on responsible water consumption, particularly in relation to landscaping. Mr. Hagenbuch explained that a large amount of water had been pulled out of the Bee Brook River, and the Shepaug River, during recent road maintenance. Discussion ensued. Ms. Dyer and Ms. Gil-Rodgers offered to work on this item together.

The Committee discussed their desire to pursue the implementation of Low Impact Development within the town's Zoning regulations. Mr. Charles suggested speaking with Mr. Hayden and Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, regarding this.

Mr. Hubelbank asked Mr. Hagenbuch if the Steep Rock Association planned to provide community education on invasive species management. Mr. Hagenbuch indicated that the Steep Rock Association would be open to this.

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that a new facilities manager, Mr. Showalter, had been hired by the town. He indicated that he would speak with Mr. Showalter regarding sustainable practices.

Mr. Hagenbuch stated that the Steep Rock Association is working on climate resilience alongside regional organizations. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the Conservation Commission is working towards an update to the Natural Resource Inventory Report, and on Solar Permitting. Mr. Charles informed the Committee that the Conservation Commission's focus regarding Solar Permitting is to regulate large for-profit solar farms.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that an emergency response team had been established, and that there was ongoing work to establish an emergency shelter for the town.

The Committee discussed transportation and the use of electric vehicles within the town. Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that there was ongoing discussion on building new electric car charging stations in New Preston.

Mr. Hubelbank began to disconnect and reconnect to the Zoom call at this time.

The Committee discussed Land Use enforcement within Washington, and how enforcement may relate to Sustainability within the town.

The Committee then discussed training for municipal agents, composting and recycling within the town. Following this discussion, the Commission considered applying the equity toolkit to affordable and efficient housing within Washington.

Other Items to Come Before Committee

No new/other business was discussed.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:47 by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell

Town of Washington

Sustainability Committee Clerk

7-18-2022

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

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Ej8eezxDnkZNv8v3CeoNdrkBgEicfX5n25WvwYdAYHbSTQ?e=JGOD57

Sustainable CT Actions

1. Equity option

Michelle is working with an intern for a housing initiative

Potential for POCD work to qualify

2. Thriving Local Economies

Approved: 2.2,2.3,2.6

More work to do:

2.4 Provide Resources to local businesses

2.5 Promote a sustainable workforce

3. Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

Approved: 3.1,3.4, 3.10,3.12,3.13

Not Approved:

3.1 Provide Watershed Education

3.7 Provide education on water conservation

More work to do:

3.2 Create a watershed management plan

3.6 Manage for drought and Municipal water use

3.8 Implement Low Impact Development

We've had a number of discussions on Low Impact Development. Is there enough information to try and move this forward?

3.9 Manage Woodlands

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species education and management

Steep Rock offering training for their preserves, need to expand to town and residents

3.11 Implement a Green Grounds and Maintenance program

Town hiring a Facilities Manager who can address this

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

Approved: 4.1,4.2

More work to do:

4.4 - Arts and Creative culture for youth

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

Approved: 5.1,5.3.4

More work to do:

5.2 Adopt permitting process to promote sustainable development

5.3 Develop Agricultural Friendly Practices

We've started talking with local farmers and signage is one area of concern. Is there any actions we can take in this area?

5.4 Assess climate vulnerability

5.5 Inventory and Asses Historic Resources

5.6 Streamline solar permitting

Conservation Comm. was looking into this, any progress?

5.7 Plan for long term recovery

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), may be able to work on this

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

Approved: 6.1

Not Approved: 6.4 Host an EV charger – we did not get points because the charger was installed to long ago.

BOS budgeted for another charger in this year's budget. Also looking for grants to place more around town.

More work to do:

6.1 More actions under complete streets

6.2 Promote effective parking management

6.3 Encourage smart commuting

6.5 Promote public transit

6.6 Manage municipal fleets

Additionally: EDC working on funding to improve walkability in Depot. Town completing sidewalk repairs in New Preston

7...Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

Approved: 7.1

Not approved

7.6 Lighting assessment. Street lights where upgraded to long ago to count

More work to do:

7.2 Reduce energy use across all municipal buildings

7.3 Achieve high energy standards for individual buildings

7.4 Increase use of renewable energy

7.5 Develop a municipal energy plan

7.7 Implement a community energy campaign

Additionally: Town will be hiring a Facility Manager who can coordinate a number of the above actions

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communications and Education

Approve: 8.1and 8.2

More work to do:

8.3 Train Municipal Representatives

8.4 Collaborate with other municipalities

9. Strategic materials management

Approved: 9.1

More work to do:

9.3 Recycle additional materials including and organic materials

9.4 Develop a Food Waste Prevention and food scraps recovery campaign

Additionally: Currently redesigning Transfer Station, looking to add composting, separate glass, recycling cloth and mattresses.

10 Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

Approved: 10.4

More work to do:

10.1 Encourage Healthy and Sustainable Food networks

10.2 Conduct health impact assessment

10.3 Improve air quality in public spaces

11. Healthy, Efficient, Diverse Housing

Approved: 11. 1

More work to do:

11.2 Grow sustainable and affordable housing options

11.3 Implement policy for sustainable, diverse housing options

Additionally: Town approved Affordable Housing plan. Work starting on implementation.

12. Effective, Compassionate, Homeless prevention

Approved: 12.2

13.1 Innovative Strategies

I have been thinking about a town wide effort to reduce car/truck idling. Does anyone have any other ideas? (Michelle, I know you had an idea, but I don't remember what it was)