

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 10, 2022**

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for the July 13, 2022 Sustainability Committee Meeting

Motion: To approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Update on P.O.C.D. and Sustainability

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that he had met with Ms. Gorra and Mr. Hileman, Chair of the Planning Commission. He stated that during this meeting it had been agreed that sustainability would be the first chapter in the upcoming P.O.C.D. Mr. Hubelbank went on to explain that sustainability would be intergraded throughout the P.O.C.D. Discussion regarding the use of consultants, funding, and specific goals for the P.O.C.D. ensued.

Review of Work on Action Items

Ms. Gorra shared her screen with the Committee and went over a Google Document which she had created alongside Ms. Levingston to help the Committee to track Sustainable CT action items. Discussion regarding this document ensued.

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would like to review the July 13, 2022 minutes to discuss action items that members of the Committee are working towards. Mr. Hubelbank began this discussion by stating that he felt the equity toolkit should be applied to the development of the upcoming P.O.C.D.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the next item he would like to discuss is “Thriving Local Economies and a Sustainable Workforce.” Mr. Charles stated that he had shared a presentation called WACCA with the Committee. A short conversation ensued.

Following this, Mr. Hubelbank stated that the next item to discuss was “Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources.” Ms. Gorra explained that Ms. Dyer had drafted an educational article to be posted in the town newsletter regarding sustainable water use. The Committee agreed to continue public education going forward. Mr. Hubelbank stated that the Conservation Commission would be updating the Natural Resource Inventory Report as a part of the upcoming P.O.C.D. update.

The Committee discussed the implementation of Low Impact Sustainable Development into the town’s Zoning regulations, the process to implement these regulations, and the work which would be needed to be done to create Low Impact Sustainable Development regulations for the Town of Washington. Mr. Charles explained that he had forwarded documentation regarding this to the Committee and that the estimated cost of implementing and developing these regulations would be upwards of \$20,000.00.

Mr. Hubelbank asked Mr. Hagenbuch if the Steep Rock Association would be willing to organize training sessions for invasive species management to educate the public. Mr. Hagenbuch stated that he would be open to this. Discussion regarding invasive species management and education ensued.

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he had spoken with Mr. Showalter, the Facilities Manager for the Town of Washington, regarding sustainable property management practices. He went on to explain that Mr. Showalter was very open to this and indicated that Mr. Showalter has a large amount of experience in sustainable building and property management.

Mr. Hubelbank asked Mr. Hagenbuch to explain the Steep Rock Association’s work on climate resiliency. Mr. Hagenbuch stated that the Steep Rock Association is using data from a variety of sources to compile maps which have multiple layers. He went on to explain that these layers of information help to better understand which areas of the town are most vulnerable to flooding, fire, power outages, and so on. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Gorra stated that Ms. Johnson, an architect who had been involved in a sustainable affordable housing project in Norfolk Connecticut would be attending an upcoming Housing Commission meeting to discuss this project. She stated that this meeting would take place on September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Gorra went on to state that she had spoken with an educator from the Shepaug school who had been interested in organizing a town bike to work day, and indicated that she would like to work on this idea going forward. Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the town is looking into building more electric car charging stations and provided the New Preston area as an example of a possible location for these stations.

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that in October the Town of Washington would hire its own Building Official opposed to an independent contractor, and that an online permitting process was under development. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the town is still working to purchase the land at the transfer station, and that work to improve the transfer station is ongoing. He explained that recycling services at this location would be expanded and that the town still hoped to install solar at this location.

Other Business to Come Before the Committee

No other business was discussed by the Committee.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:08 by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

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Town of Washington

Sustainability Committee Clerk

8-12-2022

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

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Ev20Igl4gCFEhXxWLZADIYYBRwIVDWwKdGLDN0XOibclVg?e=dhQLmv

A link to view the 2022 Sustainable CT Action Overview Worksheet is below

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JjteJQNwrzEfV7cN0tx0GNazK4An5i1Lp_sZUiBpZAg/edit?usp=sharing_eip_m&invite=CNzGjrkN&ts=62faa9de

