

Town of Washington
Sustainability Committee
Minutes
January 10th, 2024 - 5:00PM
Meeting via Zoom and Main Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Jay Hubelbank, Chris Charles, Monique Gil-Rogers, Carole Matteo, Amy Dyer, Hugh Rogers.

Absent: Linda Frank and Brian Hagenbuch

Staff: Michelle Gorra

Quest: Jim Brinton

Public: Ann Jamieson (Voices)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:05pm by Jay Hubelbank
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 13th, 2023.**

Jay passed out a copy of the minutes from last month and apologized for them not being out on time. Jay asked everyone to review them before the next meeting.

3. Update on Current Action Items:

Town Roads: Winter Plowing: Mr. Hubelbank introduced First Selectman Jim Brinton to update the committee on sustainable actions he is working on. Jim explained how the town handles the salting of roads. He said that the public works department goes through each route to determine how they're going to apply salt. Jim explained that they evaluate each road to be sure they are not using more salt than necessary. He also noted that the roads with the heaviest salt application are getting less salt than what the state recommends highway department use. Amy mentioned we could take this opportunity to educate the public regarding the contractors who plow residents' driveways. She suggested residents speak with their contractors to find out what they are using and how much they use.

a. Wake Boating- Jay followed up with Sean Hayden regarding the Lake Waramaug survey, and was told that it is complete, and should be going out the beginning of February. The survey will be open to all residents, as the lake is for all residents, not just those living on the lake. The contractor is already working on the plans for monitoring the lake this summer.

b. LISD: The LISD Committee met with two applicants- The Committee agreed to give the Land Use Department a couple of months to review new state guidelines on storm water runoff before we move forward with a contractor. The Committee will meet in February to determine next steps.

c. Composting- Jay passed out a report about the amount of food waste residents have been bringing to the Transfer Station. He noted that in 2023 we collected over 15,100 pounds of food

waste which equals 7.5 tons. Mr. Brinton noted that he was very impressed with how the public has responded to all the new recycling options.

d. Public Education- Michelle asked if someone would write a letter for the March newsletter. Hugh and Amy agreed to work with Michelle to put an article together about road salt and the possible effects on drinking water.

e. Ambulance Building - Jay reported that the architect has added a number of actions to help bring the new building to close net zero. Mr. Brinton said he is developing a complete list of work and will provide the Committee with the list as soon as it is complete.

f. Town Practices: Jay reported that the town is looking to purchase an electric truck to replace an aging gas powered pickup.

g. Region 12 AgriScience: Jay reported that he met with Tyler Crimmins, the Director of the Ag-Science Center. They discussed how the town and the Center can work together. Two specific areas they discussed are: identifying a student to be hired by the town as an intern to work on identifying invasive species on town property and how the Region can be involved in the town's composting efforts.

5. New Business

a. Use of Funds – The Committee agreed to use funds allocated in the budget to produce a spring newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed in time for Earth Day. The Committee agreed to identify specific topics at its next meeting.

6. Other Business to come before the committee

Jay and Michelle updated the committee on their meeting with representatives of SustainableCT. Although the Committee has agreed not to seek Silver certification, Jay and Michelle are looking into what it would take to renew our Bronze status. They will report back to the Committee as they have more information.

7. Public Comment: none

8. Adjournment Jay adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Reale
Sustainability Clerk

Audio Recording: https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/mgorra_washingtonct_org/ESqAykSk02RCs5hS380AO0wBBmD7n1vhdXW5-GVGv0doqQ?e=tGG8Bq