

**Town of Washington
Sustainability Committee
Minutes**

October 11th, 2023 - 5:00 Meeting via Zoom and Main Level Meeting Room

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

Staff Present: Michelle Gorra

Visitors:

1. **Call to Order:** The chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm
2. **Approval of minutes of August 9th, 2023 Meeting Minutes,** Jay made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Chris Charles-
Jay would like to welcome Hugh Rogers to the committee, he has great experience, thank you for joining and welcome!
3. **Updates on Current Action Items**
 - a. **Wake Boating- Jay and Carol-** This survey will be open to the public and it will be distributed through paper copies, at the senior center, transfer station and even electronically through the selectmen's weekly email blast. The company they hired is going to be making the survey questions
 - b. **LISD- Jay and Chris-** Jay and Chris, met with a committee focusing on how to implement Low Impact Sustainability Development into zoning regulations. The committee is made up of Jim, Jay, Chris, Peter Bowman, MaryAnne H, Shelley W, Bob Papsin, and Wayne Hileman. We learned yesterday the state is coming out with a manual of guidelines of what you should do. The committee met with one of the applicants yesterday, and they're going to meet with the other one soon. The Committee discussed the need for the regulations to be a requirement and not a suggestion.
 - c. **Unsustainable Town Practices-** Jay met with Kevin Smith from the Highway Department, and Mark Showalter and talked about putting together an inventory of all the equipment the town has. Mark is putting together a list of the town's infrastructure ex, boilers, and how old roofs are. Jay is working with Mark and Kevin to finalize their inventories and make recommendations for the 2024-25 budget

Jay reported that the he town's leaf blower recently died Mark purchased two battery powered blowers. In the future the town will purchased additional equipment that will have interchangeable batteries. The Town looked into the Green Plow Program an although the town wasn't certified as a Green Plow Program, Kevin Smith said we exceed the program. Jay will follow up with Kevin about the certification status.
 - d. **Composting- Jay-** Jay has been working with Jeff Hammond, to collect data. We are collecting data on the composting material, and we started with 2 barrels and now we're at 6 barrels. We also started getting data on glass, and now textiles, we currently have 2 bins there. Jay mentioned that All American Waste is no longer dumping at the transfer station since there were a few issues. Everyone who has been going to the

Transfer Station recently has been very cooperative separating their trash into their proper bins.

- e. **Idling Campaign-** Monique and Jay met with the superintendent of Region 12, he was very enthusiastic. He took a sign to place at the Washington Primary school, and he also wants to bring more signs to the Roxbury and Bridgewater schools as well. He has also included the No Idling Campaign flier in the weekly region 12 email blast.
- f. **Traffic Calming/ Walkability Actions- Michelle-** Haven't heard about the grant yet. Michelle mentioned that the pedestrian sign in front of the Depot wasn't even there for 24 hours before it got run over.

4. New Business

- a. **Building to Net Zero-** The goal for building the ambulance should be net zero. There was discussion of what net zero looks like for us, and how we should achieve that. The committee plans on talking to Peter Bowman for insight with this discussion.
- b. **Other Business to come before the committee:** Amy mentioned she'll work on a write up for the article for this December about how people can try to conserve fuel and be efficient in our homes as we head into winter
- c. Jay reported that the Rotary club will be hosting a Thank You to all town government and public safety volunteers at the pavilion at 5:00, drinks and food will be served

5. Adjournment; All in favor, at 6:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Reale
Amanda Reale
Sustainability Clerk

Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q78TeZ8NE4o>