

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**April 14, 2021**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Matteo, Mr. Charles, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, Ms. Dyer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Hagenbuch, Ms. Payne, Mr. Hubelbank, Ms. Rowe

**CLERK:** Mr. Buell

**Others:** Ms. Noriega, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Hayden

With a quorum present, Ms. Gorra called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M and seated Ms. Matteo, Mr. Charles, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, and Ms. Dyer.

**Consideration of Minutes for the March 10, 2021 Meeting**

**Motion:** To approve the Minutes for the March 10, 2021 meeting as written by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Ms. Dyer. Passed 5-0.

**Review of Action Items**

Ms. Gorra stated that she would like to review the progress which had been made over the past month regarding action items, and the Committee spent approximately 40 minutes reviewing these items. During this discussion Ms. Noriega, an intern at Sustainable Ct who has been helping Washington with its application process, helped the Committee get a better grasp of this process. As the Committee addressed specific items, Ms. Noriega explained what sections these items would gain points for, and when necessary detailed what steps still needed to be taken for credit in these areas. During this discussion, Mr. Stafford and Mr. Hayden who are members of the Lake Waramaug taskforce also asked Ms. Noriega about how their efforts to care for Lake Waramaug can help Washington gain certification through Sustainable Ct. Additionally, Mr. Hayden and Mr. Charles discussed Low Impact Development regulations, and

the possibility of implementing regulations similar to the town of Morris' Low Impact Development guidelines in Washington.

### **Earth Day Activates**

Ms. Gorra stated that the Earth Day Event is a sustainable event which will be host to several nonprofit organizations, all of whom are involved with sustainability in some way. She went on to say that the Washington Environmental Council, Lake Waramaug Task Force, Garden Club, Shepaug Agri Science, Steep Rock Association, and Conservation Commission will all attend this event, each with their own tables. Ms. Gorra continued by stating that a common project that many of these organizations have been involved with is pollinator pathways and asked Ms. Dyer to elaborate on this subject.

### **Pollinator Pathways Presentation**

Ms. Dyer indicated that she planned to promote an upcoming zoom featuring John Markelon from Litchfield who is a pollinator pathway expert at the Earth Day event. This zoom will take place on April 28, 2021 and interested attendees can register on the Environmental Council's website. She went on to state that she hoped to also help educate the public at this event about pollinator pathways. Ms. Gorra stated that she would like to include more information on pollinator pathways on the Sustainability Committee's table. Ms. Dyer informed the Committee that White Memorial had recently sent out information regarding a kit that can be purchased to create small plantings around mailboxes which would contain plants that help with pollinator pathways, and indicated that advertising this may help gain sustainability points for the town. Ms. Gorra stated that she would work with Ms. Dyer to set up a table at the Earth Day event to promote and inform attendees about these pollinator pathways and ways they can help.

### **Other Business to Come Before Committee**

Ms. Matteo indicated that she had gone to several workshops which detailed projects being done around the state. She went on to state that she wished to reach out to a gentleman from Madison Ct regarding a program called "Whole Building Program" which she felt would be applicable to the Community Center. Following this, there was some discussion regarding solar power and the Conservation Commission's ongoing effort to get the Zoning Commission to consider solar permitting regulations at a future meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:07 by Ms. Dyer, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Buell

Town of Washington

Sustainability Committee Clerk

4-19-2021

