

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 12, 2021**

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

Mr. Hubelbank, Town Selectman, stated that he had neglected to include the consideration of minutes in the agenda but said that he would like to open the meeting with this. A motion was put forward to accept the minutes for the April 14, 2021 meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the April 14, 2021 meeting as written by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Mr. Charles. Passed unanimously.

Update on Earth Day

The Chair asked Ms. Gorra to give the Committee a short summary of the town's Earth Day event. Ms. Gorra informed the Committee that the event was not as well attended as she would have liked but that all who did participate were enthusiastic to learn about Washington and the town's environmental work. She went on to state that the groups who did attend did a terrific job in setting up their displays.

Update on Pollinator Pathways

Mr. Hubelbank stated that a few days after the Earth Day event, there was a Pollinator Pathway presentation that was attended by roughly 25 people. He stated that he had not downloaded the app that was described in the meeting which would enable people who had created pollinator gardens to share the location of their pollinator garden on the app. Ms. Dyer stated that she did not know if there was a tremendous follow through on the app but that she felt this would be an opportunity for points through Sustainable Ct.

Ms. Gorra stated that she had left the sign with flyers for pollinator pathways out in the Town Hall lobby, and that she had seen several people stop by and take flyers during the school budget vote. She went on to say that the Washington Garden Club intended to create a

pollinator garden in one of the flowerbeds at Washington Town Hall. Ms. Dyer stated that she felt this could apply to section 3.12.2 of Sustainable CT, and that it might be beneficial to request that the town allow some of its property to go uncut until June to create more pollinator pathways. The Committee then held a short discussion about signage for No-Mow-May and some of the ways that the town may gain points through pollinator pathways.

Ms. Dyer then stated that she had shared a pollinator friendly community resolution with Mr. Hubelbank which she had found on Sustainable Ct's website. Mr. Hubelbank asked that the Committee clerk distribute this material with the rest of the Committee and stated that the town selectmen would need to take this resolution up, which he believed they would.

Update on Action Items

Mr. Hubelbank stated that the first action item he would like to discuss is the equity action item. He explained that Ms. Gorra, Ms. Matteo, and himself had all attended a workshop on this action item. He stated that this workshop discussed the need to gain more community involvement in Washington's programs, Commissions, and organizations, and that they would apply the equity toolkit to the June 3rd public forum. Mr. Hubelbank went on to state that the equity workshop had shown the need to potentially restructure the tone of some meetings to improve attendance, and to make attendees feel more comfortable with speaking at these meetings.

Following this, Mr. Hubelbank asked the Committee if any of its members had any questions or comments regarding specific action items. Ms. Gorra stated that Committee members should submit documentation for their action items to the Sustainable Ct website soon so that the Sustainable Ct intern assigned to Washington may look the information over. Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would distribute a list of action items that the Committee is working on, and who he believed to be working on specific items within the coming week in hopes that Committee members could begin upload the required documentation to the website. The Committee then held a short conversation regarding how to upload documentation to the Sustainable Ct website.

Other Business to Come Before Committee

Ms. Dyer stated that she and Ms. Gorra had discussed the possibility of holding a farmer's forum. She indicated that she did not feel this would be reasonable to do for this year's Sustainable Ct application deadline, but felt this would be a terrific project going forward. The Committee then held a short conversation regarding this idea, farms in the town, and open spaces within Washington.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:51 by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Mr. Charles. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Buell", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
5-19-2021