

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 11, 2021**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Ms. Matteo, Mr. Charles, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, Mr. Hubelbank, Ms. Dyer
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Ms. Payne, Ms. Rowe, Mr. Hagenbuch, Ms. Armstrong
<b>Staff:</b>	Mr. Buell, Ms. Gorra
<b>OTHERS:</b>	Ms. Zukauskas

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

**Consideration of Minutes for the July 14, 2021 Meeting**

Motion: To approve the July 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo. Passed unanimously.

**Review and Submission for Action Items for Certification**

Mr. Hubelbank requested that the clerk, Mr. Buell, log into SustainableCt.org, and the Committee then spent a short time reviewing the action items which had been as marked "incomplete". Following this, the Committee submitted the application to become certified as bronze certified on the SustainableCt website.

**Discussion of Future Goals and Actions for the Committee**

Mr. Hubelbank stated to the Committee that he would like to begin discussions regarding the future of the Committee, and asked the members present to consider projects they would like to participate in going forward. He then indicated that Mr. Buell would create a list of items which the Committee discussed at this meeting.

Ms. Matteo stated that she would like to consider the Sustainability section of the P.O.C.D. and the action items on the SustainableCt website. Ms. Matteo then explained that she would like to address equity within the town. The Committee held a short discussion regarding the need to make commission meetings more accessible to members of the public who are unable to physically attend meetings. The Committee discussed the potential of increasing availability of WI-FI and computers to members of the community who presently do not have access to these technologies so that they may attend meetings from home.

Following this, the Committee held a short conversation regarding the updated P.O.C.D. and Mr. Hubelbank reminded the Committee that the chair of the Planning Commission, Mr. Hileman, will be attending a future meeting to gain input from the Sustainability Committee regarding this upcoming P.O.C.D.

Ms. Gorra stated that she would like to continue work on “Complete Streets,” “Thriving Local Economies,” and “Arts and Culture,” going forward as she felt some work in these areas can still be completed to gain future points through the SustainableCt website.

The Committee then held a discussion regarding the future of the town, and how climate change will impact the town going forward. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he would like to improve communication between Commissions as well so that they can better work together towards more cohesive goals.

Ms. Dyer stated that she had shared a “Planning for Agriculture Guide,” with Ms. Gorra, then briefly described to the Committee how this guide could positively impact farming within Washington.

Mr. Charles stated that he would like to improve education within the town so that when making regulations, or drafting documents like the upcoming P.O.C.D., community members responsible for these changes will have the knowledge to make decisions which will have a positive impact upon the future of the town. After a short discussion on this subject, Mr. Charles stated that he was excited about the new enforcement officer that the town had hired. The Committee then discussed how her education and work experience would enable her to assist the town in a number of projects. Mr. Charles then expressed an interest in pursuing Low Impact Development within Washington, and indicated that the newly hired enforcement officer would be able to assist in the creation of these regulations.

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would like to develop a way to reach out to town commissions and groups to communicate sustainable actions that the Sustainability Committee would like them to consider. Mr. Charles then described an evaluation which may be preformed for the town which will depict how the town will look under current regulations in the next couple of years. He indicated that this information will help commissions within the town create regulations which will result in positive changes to the future of Washington.

Ms. Gorra stated that she felt that some of the goals which had been set forth within the town had been too large or broad, and that she felt that setting forth smaller and more achievable goals may help the town move forward in a positive direction.

The Committee then held a short conversation regarding the need for more affordable housing within the town, land preservation, and land management within the town.

#### **Other Business to come before the Committee**

Ms. Dyer informed the Committee that they had successfully held a farmer’s forum within Washington for the first time at Waldingfield Farm. She indicated that there was a good turnout for this event, and that at this forum they had formed the Washington Farmer’s Alliance.

**Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Buell  
Town of Washington  
Sustainability Committee Clerk  
8-18-2021

