

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 14, 2022**

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Mr. Hubelbank called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from August 10th

Motion: To approve the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Update on Action Items

Update of Spreadsheet in Google Docs

Ms. Gorra shared her screen with the Committee and opened the spreadsheet which she had developed alongside Ms. Levingston to assist the Committee to better track Sustainable CT action items. The Committee discussed the use of this spreadsheet going forward and how best to format the document.

Water Conservation Article

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the water conservation article would be posted to the town website, and explained that he hoped to further update the Sustainability section of this website.

Idling Campaign with W.E.C.

The Committee discussed the creation of a town campaign to spread awareness about the impact that vehicle idling has upon the environment. Mr. Hubelbank referenced a similar campaign which had been conducted by the town of Wilton. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the

purpose of this campaign would be to educate the public. He went on to state that he would meet with Ms. Gorra, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, and a member of the Washington Environmental Council named Ms. Horne to discuss this campaign.

Equity Tool Kit

Mr. Hubelbank explained to the Committee that Ms. Gorra and Ms. Matteo had met to discuss applying the equity toolkit to the upcoming 2023 update of the P.O.C.D.

Ms. Gorra indicated that the goal of the toolkit is to insert a process of inclusion into a project which the town is already working towards. She stated that to apply this process to the P.O.C.D., the Committee would need to examine which members of the community are, and are not, involved in discussions related to the development of the P.O.C.D.

Ms. Gorra explained that diversity is not limited to ethnicity and listed age, economic status, and disability as forms of diversity. The Committee then discussed applying the equity toolkit to the P.O.C.D., and the Health Equity Analysis which is presently being developed by a graduate student employed by the Frederick Gunn School.

Sustainable Housing Presentation

The Committee discussed the Housing Commission's presentation which had taken place on September 13, 2022. This presentation focused on an affordable housing project in Norfolk which had been built to be net zero. Ms. Gorra stated that a recording of this presentation had been made available on the Housing Commission's section of the Town of Washington's website. The Committee discussed how this project may inspire future affordable housing projects within the Town of Washington, and the challenges which these projects may face. The Committee then discussed accessory dwellings on residential properties as a possible affordable housing option within the town.

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he would meet with Mr. Charles to learn more about affordable and cluster housing and to discuss what steps the Committee may take to help facilitate an update to the town's regulations.

Farmers Assistance

The Committee discussed the purpose of a Right to Farm Ordinance, and how it would potentially benefit farmers within the town. Ms. Dyer indicated that a Right to Farm Ordinance would be a form of branding which would show support for farmers within the town. Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would meet with Ms. Gorra, Ms. Dyer, and Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, to discuss these issues.

Other Updates

Mr. Charles listed a plethora of documents which he had shared with the Committee prior to the August meeting. These documents included the Low Impact Sustainable Development manual, an article on arts and crafts, a sewer project for the town of Cornwall, information on

protected land within the town of Washington, the 2005 Depot Study, and the 2013 placemaking proposal by Peter Talbot.

Mr. Hubelbank stated to the Committee that work to build new electric car charging stations throughout the town is ongoing.

Ms. Gorra indicated that in addition to items previously discussed throughout the meeting, she was working on several projects which had not been mentioned. She went on to explain that work towards a bike to work day was ongoing. Following this, Ms. Gorra stated that she had been speaking to Sustainable CT to see if the town would be eligible for a community match fund for the creation of a public water fountain.

Other Business to Come Before the Committee

No other business was discussed by the Committee

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
9-16-2022

A link to access a recording of this meeting is below.

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Eh-l-sXyeOhMiyTxTSqEmIUBOsev6GV4eX9ExHZILluWNQ?e=WzbahR