

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 12, 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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting

Ms. Matteo stated that the minutes indicated that she had attended the September 14, 2022 meeting which was incorrect. She requested that this be amended.

Motion: To accept the September 14, 2022 meeting minutes with the correction so noted by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Update on Action Items

- **Recycling**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that there would be glass recycling and composting offered at the transfer station. He went on to explain that he hoped to also have several additional containers dropped off throughout the town for garbage disposal which he felt would be a convenience for residents.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hubelbank explained that Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, was looking into establishing a bottle return service at the transfer station. He indicated that residents would not be paid for these returns, and that the money would be used to fund and support organizations within the town.

- **Idling Campaign**

The Committee discussed the idling campaign which they planned to host this year. Ms. Gorra shared examples of signage and postcards she had designed for this campaign. Mr. Hubelbank explained that he would request additional funds from the Board of Finance for the idling campaign, and 2 other campaigns he hoped to host this year. Mr.

Hubelbank then stressed that this campaign would focus on education and not enforcement. The Committee discussed 2 cycle engines, laws pertaining to idling, and the impact idling has upon the environment.

- **Equity Toolkit**

Ms. Matteo informed the Committee that she had organized a meeting for residents living near and around Lake Waramaug at the country club to discuss preserving water quality at the lake. She explained that she had gone door to door with invitations, and that at this meeting attendees had discussed the need to regulate wave boats on the lake which she explained have a negative impact upon the lake's shoreline and water quality. Ms. Matteo indicated that all 3 towns around Lake Waramaug and the State of Connecticut would need to collaborate on a solution to this issue.

- **Farmer's Assistance**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that Ms. Gorra and Ms. Dyer had met with Mr. Brinton to discuss farming and a right to farm ordinance. Ms. Gorra stated that signage, agritourism, and temporary housing had been the biggest concerns voiced by farmers, and that these are all regulated by the town's Zoning regulations. Ms. Gorra then stated that they would meet again to discuss recommendations for the Zoning Commission regarding the concerns voiced by farmers in the town.

- **Housing**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he had met with Mr. Charles to discuss affordable housing and that he planned to meet with Mr. Fairbairn regarding the housing trust.

He went on to state that Mr. Charles had explained a state regulation named A-30G which pertains to affordable housing projects. Mr. Hubelbank went on to explain that he wished to implement A-30G into the town's regulations as a way of showing support for affordable housing in the town, and to make the process easier for applicants.

The Committee then discussed the Habitat for Humanity project on Myfield Lane. Ms. Gorra stated that this project would soon need volunteers and prospective homeowners who would be able to contribute sweat equity towards the project. She indicated that hopeful buyers would be able to apply for this online at Habitat for Humanity's website, or through the first-time homebuyer's workshop on October 25th in New Milford. She stated that information regarding this may be found in the selectman's email to residents who are subscribed to receive emails from the town selectmen.

- **Low Impact Development**

The Committee discussed their desire to implement Low Impact Development regulations within the Town of Washington. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that he had met with Mr. Charles regarding this. Mr. Charles explained that a large part of Low Impact Development is public outreach and education and that the cost of this project is potentially between \$5,000.00 and \$20,000.00. He went on to explain that the Conservation District, Board of Selectmen, and Mr. Hayden should meet to determine the cost of developing these recommendations, and how to best implement them within the town.

- **EV charging Station**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he was working to have upwards of 5 electric vehicle charging stations installed throughout Washington. He explained that these stations could monitor and regulate fees, usage times. The Committee then discussed the costs associated with this endeavor.

Other Business to come

The Committee discussed the possibility of a noise ordinance within the town. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town may regulate work hours for construction, but not landscaping. The Committee then discussed the possibility of prohibiting 2-cycle engines within the town.

Mr. Charles listed a number of documents he had brought with him to the meeting for the consideration of the Committee. These items included Mr. Talbot's Placemaking Proposal, the Depot Study, WACCA's workshop, energy transparency, the rotary invitation, a workshop discussed by the Housing Commission, an inland wetlands conference, and a pottery tour.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
10-19-2022

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

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/EoC410TEYCNPyJbBcbxvZQByHC1xPelqBOi4TilAz8pjw?e=RsgFog