

Town of Washington
Sustainability Committee
Minutes

August 9th- 5:00 Meeting via Zoom and Main Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Jay Hubelbank, Carole Matteo, Monique Gil-Rodgers, Linda Frank, Amy Dyer, Chris Charles
Members Absent: Brian Hagenbuch, Carrie Rowe
Staff Present: Michelle Gorra
Visitors: Ann Jamieson

1. **Call to Order:** The chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
2. **Approval of minutes of July Minutes:** Not approved at this time, didn't have minutes in hand at the time
3. **Updates on Current Action Items**
 - a. ***Wake Boats***- The Lake Waramug Task Force, working with Kent, Warren and Washington, has hired Terra Virgillis to do a study on the impact of wake boats on Lake Waramug. The first step is to survey the community to determine how the community uses the lake. The survey results will be available this fall. The company will return in May of 2024 to track the effect wake boats have on the lake over the summer of 2024. A report will be available in the fall. Jay noted Jim Brinton had sent out a link to a video explaining the work Terra Virgillis will be doing.
 - b. ***Low Impact Sustainable Development (LISD)*** 2 Proposals- One from Steve Trinkaus and Planimetrics, both plans are in our price ranges. The LISD Committee agreed to interview both applicants. Interviews will be scheduled in early September. Jay reported both applicants indicated a 4-month timeframe and Jay is hopeful the Committee can bring the report to the Zoning Commission for approval in the spring.
 - c. ***Educating the Public***– Monique and Amy – Monique and Amy haven't met yet. Amy wrote a great article for the newsletter about leaf blowing and about switching your gas leaf blower for electric. Michelle mentioned, one hour to leaf blowing is equal to driving over 1,100 miles in a car.
 - d. ***Unsustainable Practices***- Jay reported that he and Jim Brinton had met with Kevin Smith, the head of the Highway Department and Mark Showalter, Head of Facilities to talk about the equipment the town uses, how we maintain town property and how we maintain roads. They explained they were interested in discussing what we can do to make the town more sustainable. Kevin and Mark are on board with looking into what each of their departments can do. The first step will be to inventory the equipment the town currently uses. Mark and Kevin have agreed to complete the inventory in early September and Jim and Jay will meet with them to discuss next steps.

Jay also noted the town will be buying 2 hybrid vehicles this year; one for the Building Inspector and one for the Fire Marshal.

- e. ***Transfer Station-*** Jay reported that we are collecting five barrels of household food waste each week. He is also developing a spreadsheet to track all the items the town collects at the Transfer Station. He expects to see a reduction in the amount of Material Solid Waste (MSW) and Recyclables due to the reduction in food scraps from the MSWW and glass from recycling. Jay reported that we have been collecting energy data for all town buildings for over 3 years. He plans to meet with the Building and Properties Committee to review the data and identify which town building would benefit most by a plan to reduce energy usage.
 Jay also reported that the Board of Selectmen has appointed a Building Committee to work on the renovations and construction for the Ambulance Association building. Jay and Jim Brinton are both on the committee and are committed to working to make the facility as energy efficient as possible.
- f. ***Stonewall Identification- Chris:*** State of Ct UConn has a whole energy on the stone wall initiative, stone walls record an incredible amount of information. Chris wants find out if there is there a way of generating some big maps that could be helpful to help identify the agriculture land in town by the Stonewalls. This can help the future farmers of America. Agriculture is potentially coming back with having the AG Center in town. Ideally it will help create jobs for the community to find all this land that used to be farmland and try to bring it back to farmland.
- g. ***Traffic Calming / Walkability actions- Michelle and Jay-*** Michelle reported the town received approval for the Connectivity grant for the Titus Road sidewalk project. Michelle noted she needs to more to address the calming part of the plan for RT 47 and the Depot.
- h. ***Invasive Species-*** Jay reported that the town did not receive any applications for the intern position we have budgeted for. Monique suggested we contact the Shepaug Ag Center and see if any students would be interested in doing this work. Jay agreed to follow up.
- 4. **New Business**
 - a. ***Discussion of Climate Leader Designation-*** The committee discussed the State's Climate Leader Designator and whether the Committee wants to pursue any of the action items. The committee members noted we have completed a number of action items already and Jay asked everyone to review the full list and at the next meeting the committee can decide if we want to work on any item.
- 5. **Other Business to come before the committee;** none at this time
- 6. **Public Comment;** none at this time
- 7. **Adjournment;** motion to adjourn made by Jay at 6:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Reale
 Amanda Reale
 Sustainability Clerk

Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXcs3l_G8VQ

