

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

April 10, 2019

Present: Matt Simonson, Andy Belden, Emily Walton, John Gorham, Deb Harrison, Chuck Kabat, Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator

Guests: Jenna Gibson, Russ Poole, John Sisson

Minutes Review

C. Kabat made a motion to accept the minutes. E. Walton second. Andy Belden recused himself since this is his first meeting.

Introduction of new member Andy Belden

Andy Belden our newest member introduced himself – he is now with Eversource. Previous he worked with Mass CEC, state clean energy development authority and ran their incentive programs. Prior to that he worked as a consultant with state and local govts. on sustainability initiatives for clean energy and solar. He has a degree from University of Delaware.

Old/New Business

John Sisson, Community Development officer presented on the proposed Town of Dedham District Improvement Finance (DIF) plan. Providence highway is a big scar that runs the length of Dedham, but is the economic backbone for the town. The DIF would leverage the strength to heal the district. He listed the possibilities if DIF was created - Eng designs money could be used for planning around the corridor and capital projects.

Phase 1 next month is does the Town wish to create a district. Then over following months have multiple community meetings to figure out infrastructure needs, what do they cost and how do we prioritize and what is the plan. In the fall TM would vote on what project.

Emily asked is this a tax? It doesn't raise or lower taxes says J. Sisson. It signals to public and private that we are serious about investment. Assembly row is a good example. It benefited Federal Reality and Somerville. If there is new growth then that money goes into the district. It doesn't take money away from the existing general fund only off the top if there is new growth.

D. Harrison asked about what would be incentivized for infrastructure? J. Sisson said it could incentivize pedestrian crossings, sewer improvements, and placing wiring underground for example.

D. Harrison asked if you could use this money on sanctuary land? J. Sisson replied that it would have to be within the district.

J. Sission updated the Committee that the new planner will start May 6th.

Update on Dedham Water Works Project

D. Harrison updated the Committee on the exhibit and symposium and reviewed the speakers and what they will be presenting on May 4th. There will be 8 exhibits around Town with amazing old pictures with a big collection from the Historical Society & Museum showing cows grazing, people cutting ice, old pumping station and then current contemporary photos. Leigh Hafrey will moderate the event.

V. LeClair asked if everyone would help publicize. D. Harrison mentioned the guided canoe tour with L.L. Bean and that space is limited.

Update from Plastic Bag Reduction Sub- Committee

E. Walton reviewed the timeline for the sub-committees tasks – reaching out to Board of Health, Selectboard, Small Businesses, Town Meeting precinct chairs, Town Meeting Members, and coalition build before September warrant is due.

Russ Poole suggested we meet with Bylaw review committee, Fincom and Town Council.

J. Gorham said E. Walton is doing a good job with the Steering Committee. D. Harrison asked how do we keep these people engaged after.

Spring Recycling Day Discussion

The Committee discussed spring recycling day and reviewed the vendors, the setup, committee volunteers, and advertisement and student volunteers. The event is Saturday, May 18th from 8am-12pm.

Earth Hour

We are not sure how many people took part in Earth Hour. It was publicized in the papers and on Facebook. Next year we hope to partner with students to build a bigger coalition around this event. Regardless it's a good awareness builder.

Earth Day

There will be several cleanups taking part around Town for Earth Day. The CRWA is handling registration. It has been shared with the schools and HS Green Team will be doing cleanups.

Review of Proposed Sustainable Building Guidelines

V. LeClair discussed the Sustainable Building Guidelines that were shared with her by the Town of Wellesley. The Committee has discussed as a goal for some time now creating guidelines of our own for municipal buildings. These are a good model to follow.

Russ Poole suggested we talk to the Building Planning & Construction Committee (BPCC). Andy Belden commented on Zero net energy and LEED or passive house commercial. Andy wants to make sure we are not locking ourselves into one standard and would like to build flexibility into this as programs and goals change.

J. Gorham asked what the downside to this is? A. Belden replied that we would need to add active ventilation, which can be healthier for the occupants, but cost can be 2-3 or 10-15% more.

V. LeClair will reach out to MAPC about possible technical assistance funding to help draft guidelines for Dedham.

Old/New Business

Community Choice Aggregation

V. LeClair updated the Committee on the initiative to educate residents to opt up.

Jenna Gibson shared information with the Committee about fixit clinics at the library. V. LeClair said these could help the Town could qualify for recycling grants through it. Promote repair and reuse as opposed to buying new. Old sewing machines, tools. The Town would need to host 3.

D. Harrison motioned to adjourn. C. Kabat second. All in favor.