

## Meeting Minutes

### Weston Sustainable Committee

(SusCom)

**26 January 2021**

Sustainable Committee Members	Zoom Present	Sustainable Committee Members	Zoom Present
David Ayer (DA) Member at Large	yes	Sandy Kendall (SK) Member at Large	yes
Phoebe Beierle (PB) Permanent Bldg. Com Liaison	yes	Alyson Muzila (AM) School Com. Liaison	yes
Leslie Glynn (LG) Planning Board Liaison	no	Katharina Wilkins (KW) Chair, BOS Liaison	yes
Chris Jyllka (CJ) Member at Large	yes		

Also Zoom present: Phyllis Halpern(HC), Stephen Wagner (HC), Alicia Primer (HC, Planning Board)

No.	Description	Action
1.	A ZOOM meeting of the Weston Sustainable Committee was held as duly posted and called to order at 7:05 PM.	-
2.	There were no public comments.	-
3.	Historical Commission: Phyllis Halpern Presentation highlighting findings on replacement windows vs. restoration of existing windows Wording on CARP directive to residents was discussed – be more clear on when replacements are reasonable and when historical considerations should be heeded.	-
4.	<p>Reports from liaisons to other committees (including their discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools</li> </ul> <p>1. PTO: PTO Reps met with each principal. Wide support for sustainability efforts but not sure how to engage families/teachers/green team. PB can provide examples of structures for district green teams. Superintendent suggested that future Sus. Coordinator codesign the structure within the schools. Sus Com felt that this may not be the intended role of Sus. Coordinator although the position will require significant coordination with the schools.</p> <p>2. Composting discussion: AM spoke with Tess Sousa (Director, Food Services) about sustainability efforts during her time; what worked and what didn't. Interest in, and likelihood of, food waste composting in town seems higher now than it was. Waste hauling contract is up for renewal: Charlie Young and PB are discussing options for contractual language.</p> <p>3. Sustainable landscape policy discussion: discussions happening among various town groups. Who can coordinate: SWAG? WPPA? Much of discussion is about pollinator friendly landscaping and processes. Suggested Role of WPPA is to provide education to Planning Board and Town DPW. Role of Sus Com. may be to convene discussion on existing and ideal landscaping practices at schools and town property, AFTER hiring of Sus. Coordinator and new Conservation Agent.</p> <p>4. Budget discussions: AM continues to make sustainability a key part of many budget items for 2022-23 budget, asking questions whenever possible during budget meeting with Town boards and departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>- Planning Board: PB attended a meeting with Planning Board members and Imai A (town planner) to discuss the Board's goals for the year and the intersection with the CARP goals. One area of overlap that has strong support across Town is around sustainable landscaping. Another meeting will be held in early March to ensure coordination happening as these efforts move forward. AM is working on identifying opportunities for</li> </ul>	

	<p>the Town to improve sustainable field and landscaping practices. The SusComm agreed that a next step should be for AM to coordinate a meeting with the key stakeholders to discuss current practice and opportunities for improvement. In the meantime, research is needed on what other Towns policies are around this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent Building Committee - PB reached out to Gary and Jerry from Facilities to schedule a meeting to discuss the status of the current lighting project and discuss priority projects for the next phase of green communities funding.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p>Report from MCAN meeting for members of municipal sustainability committees: DA, CJ &amp; PB attended the first meeting held by MCAN bringing sustainability and energy committee members together from across the state to discuss best practices. The meeting was productive in connecting volunteer leaders, sharing challenges and opportunities, and getting attendees excited for future meetings. MCAN is working to define the structure of this group going forward and what topics to focus on during meetings. All members of SusComm are welcome to participate. Sus Com is generally supportive of this pursuit and encouraged future participation by all who are interested.</p>	-
6.	<p>CARP update: discussion around CARP goal setting for emissions  PB led a discussion about GHG and carbon emissions reduction goals for Weston, which will be included in the final CARP. The consensus of the group was that setting a "stretch goal" and bold vision is important but that the goal must also be based on targets identified by the State or another respected entity. The group reviewed draft language, and liked the example from Watertown that broke out municipal vs. residential goals. PB will bring notes back to KLA to develop a draft goal to bring forward to the CARP Working Group for discussion.  Communication goals: Sus Com discussed a series of articles leading to the release of the final CARP. First step: a Town Crier article as a starting point for future CARP-related communications. The topic was chosen to cover World (including US reentry to Paris Accord), our state (MA decarbonization roadmap and ongoing legislative initiatives), our town (where we stand now, perhaps referencing Energy Analysis report). CJ, SK and AKW will collaborate on this. Further down the road, there will be other articles, and a Wes-TEN feature (AM) on the final CARP.</p>	PB AKW CJ SK
7.	<p>KW updated the group on the new hire of a Sustainability Coordinator. Interviews are currently planned, after assistant town manager Lisa Y. weeds out applications from unsuitable candidates.</p>	PB, AKW
8.	<p>MAPC Weston Energy Analysis – Final Report and future Green Communities involvement  The final report provides four suggested actions, and  Sus Com needs to look into the grant application details to determine eligibility for spring funding and identify as a team what our next project would be to bring forward. Opportunities might include a feasibility assessment of swapping out the oil furnace at Town Hall.  PB - mentioned that the federal COVID bill passed in December does contain funding for schools to make HVAC upgrades to improve air quality. Sus Com is interested to know if Weston is taking advantage of any of this funding (or is planning to) and how it might be a helpful benefit for indoor air quality and energy conservation.  Under ongoing consideration/discussions with facilities dept.: timelines for completing 2020 Green Communities Grant project and documentation vs. due dates for spring 2021 applications.</p>	AKW, PB
9.	<p>KW reminded the Committee that she will be putting together a first draft of the SusCom Annual report and welcomes input.</p>	All
10.	<p>The <b>next meeting</b> of the Sustainable Committee will be held via ZOOM on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM.</p>	-
11.	<p>The Meeting adjourned at ~9:00 PM.</p>	

Attachments: none

Respectfully submitted: Katharina Wilkins