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By James Alexander at 8:36 am, May 01, 2023

Maynard Sustainability Committee

Minutes, 6 March 2023, 7 PM, in person (hybrid meeting)

Members present in person: Zana Cranmer, Orian Greene, Priscilla Ryder (co-chair), Meg Sobkowicz Kline, Sally Warner (notetaker), Kate Wheeler (co-chair)

Members absent: Lisa Vernegaard,

Others present: Julie Love Gagen (in person), Jen Haugh (in person), Ken Neuhauser (in person), Jeffrey Swanberg (on zoom), Roger Stillwater (zoom)

- I. **Meeting called to order** at 7:01 PM
- II. **Minutes approved** from February meeting; KW moves, OG seconds, 6-0 approve
- III. **Next meeting date:** April 3 and May 1. We will attempt to meet on the first Monday of the month going forward.
- IV. **Climate Action Plan** (ZC presenting)
 - a. We can plan to have a handout. Jeff thinks a handout sounds like a better idea than a presentation.
 - b. Zana will draft a “what we’ve done, where we’re going” document. We will review this at our next meeting.
- V. **Community Energy Aggregation** (SW presenting)
 - a. SW would like the name to be Maynard Power Choice rather than Maynard Electric Choice which we decided on last week. SW moves, OG seconds, 6-0 in favor.
 - b. SW will talk to Kate about entities for listing on the docs from Mass Power Choice. The docs will then be shared with Jeff and the rest of the committee.
- VI. **MSBA and Green Meadow school design**
 - a. KN starts off by giving a brief synopsis of where we’re at:
 - i. The School Building Committee voted to have a gas boiler system on the grounds that there’s a possibility that the electric ground-source heat pump will potentially cost more during the build and potentially during operation. Their main argument is that there is too much uncertainty about the incentives.
 - ii. They are using a green engineer who will do some energy and cost modeling, but that won’t happen until a later date after the design is approved by the town.

- b. PR suggests that we have a workshop about the energy/heating alternatives in the school. This would involve experts from Eversource and people from towns (Acton and Lexington) who have recently built green energy schools.
- c. JG said that she thought that discussions of the stretch code would be the tipping point, but that didn't happen.
- d. ZC said that the lead architect is pushing gas power and the design team is listening to him without listening to us and others who want an alternative to gas.
- e. PR thinks we should present at the upcoming tri-board meeting by submitting pre-written questions. When submitting our questions, we should cc them to all of the committees involved: Green Meadow Building Committee, Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee. Combine a statement with questions and try to be as fact-focused and as concise as possible.
 - i. KN suggests a question about "least first cost" and asking why that is the approach even though it's backfired on previous school builds in Maynard.
 - ii. JS suggests questions a question about why the energy modeling is being not done earlier.
 - iii. JS recommends that we remember who the audience is and that our audience includes all of the committees and the members of the public.
 - iv. JG says we need to focus on "process and outcome."
 - v. JS says to use strong, polite language. Make it clear that we feel like we're not being heard.
 - vi. OG makes the point that it's complicated that different groups are using different numbers, so it's impossible to compare.
 - vii. ZC and JG point out that it's not uncommon to have a third party review. JS suggests that this point is most important for fin com not for the building committee.
- f. MSK asks what are our three biggest goals? JS suggests that we should phrase this as "what would get us to 'yes'?"
 - i. KN suggests: We want to make sure this building puts our school district in a better situation than we're current in with the existing buildings. Especially since building a new school is a significant expense (address school committee)
 - ii. Value beyond first cost (address fin com)
 - iii. Hire a third-party to do energy modeling of all the different energy systems under consideration (to review the architect's statements/plans)
 - iv. Neighboring towns have found a way to build net-zero schools prior to IRA and MassSave incentives. Why can't Maynard do this now that there are significantly more incentives?
 - v. If our concerns aren't addressed, it may be time to stop the design process and restart again.
 - vi. Address building, function and finance

- g. KN will send a draft of the statements to the voting committee members tonight. Individuals will send edits to Kate tomorrow. (This process will not violate open meeting laws.)

- VII. **High school solar project**
 - a. No updates

- VIII. **Waste Diversion** (MSK and OG presenting)
 - a. Working on a survey

- IX. **Nature Based Solutions** (PR presenting)
 - a. PR and KW are working on this

- X. **Website** (SW presenting)
 - a. No updates at this time

- XI. **Grants**
 - a. JG presented some slides
 - b. Committee should gather data and start the process, but she argues that we should then hire a consultant to help engage multi-stakeholders around town.
 - c. Options:
 - i. Detailed Plan: We hire a consultant to fully write the plan. \$50k cost which could potentially be funded by Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Still includes input from committee
 - ii. Abbreviated Plan 1: hire a consultant who leads the stakeholder engagement process. The committee writes the report. \$15k from the DOER TAP program (next deadline in July).
 - iii. Abbreviated Plan 2: work through MAPC via a grant from MAPC TAP. This case requires a very specific ask for a particular task.
 - d. JG is willing to help with this.
 - i. She needs a clear list/outline of who are stakeholders are.
 - ii. Competing conflicts assessment – understand where we may run into conflicts prior to talking to stakeholders.
 - e. For the next meeting, ZC, JH and JG will collaborate on defining the scope.

- XII. **Panel of experts**
 - a. Goal would be to hear stories about other towns who have recently built schools.
 - b. KW will take the lead with OG helping
 - c. Important stakeholders from town committees will be invited

- XIII. **Public Comment**
 - a. RS circulated an email with two warrant articles for the upcoming town meeting.

- b. First warrant: No fossil fuels in the school. This would be a recommendation (not a binding resolution) to the select board. He has 27 signatures so far.
- c. Second warrant: Opt in to the new stretch code that states that all new buildings must be “net-zero ready”, “solar ready”, and there must be at least 1 EV plug in charging stations.
- d. He is looking for support from Green Maynard and the Sustainability Committee on these two warrants.
- e. PR recommends we wait until the fall so more education on the stretch code can be carried out prior to the vote.

XIV. Adjourn at 9:29

- a. KW moves, ZC seconds, 6-0 in favor