

## **Maynard Sustainability Committee**

Minutes, 10 May 2022, 7 PM, via Zoom

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

Members absent: Lisa Vernegaard, and liaison to GM MSBA committee, Ken Neuhauser

Others present: Jeffrey Swanberg (liaison)

- I. **Meeting called to order** by PR at 7:03 PM
- II. **Minutes approved** for 12 April 2022; MSK moves, OG seconds, 6-0 approve
- III. **Next meeting dates:** Tuesday, June 14 and Tuesday, July 12
- IV. **Quick update:** PR and KW meet with the Town Planner and Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Agent (Julia Flannery)
- V. **NC4 climate group**
  - a. ZC, JS, PR, and SW all volunteer to share the duties of attending
  - b. When they have a MOU, JS recommends that this committee recommends that the select board approve the MOU officially
  - c. Note that the boundaries were just a starting point, so even though we aren't specifically within the boundaries, we are more than welcome to join
  - d. Other groups that members of this committee are involved with:
    - i. KW: Tree Corps, Regional Tree Alliance, attends meetings for: MAPC, MAGIC, HeatSmart
    - ii. MSK: Maynard's newly formed task force on waste management, MAC
    - iii. OG: Green Maynard, MAC, Tree Corps
    - iv. SW: no specific groups but regularly attends climate and ocean-related webinars
    - v. ZC: Green Maynard, HeatSmart, Energize Mass
    - vi. JS: NC4
- VI. **Spreadsheet with sustainability efforts and goals**
  - a. Create climate action plan (ZC and KW)
    - i. ZC reviewed Acton's plan and also has the greenhouse gas inventory that was previously completed for Maynard
    - ii. ZC says one of the first steps is prioritizing our first steps
  - b. Community Choice Aggregation
    - i. Set a possible goal for October's town meeting to present a plan for this to be voted on

- ii. JS will take on the task of finding the possible right town to possibly join up with. Potentially Sudbury since the timing of Acton's bid is way off from ours.
- iii. PR brought up the company [PowerOptions](#) that formed to help towns aggregate better
- iv. SW mentioned that Acton uses [Mass Power Choice](#)
- v. KW mentioned [Abode Energy Management](#); ZC says this may not be specifically for energy.
- c. Encourage green energy for MSBA
  - i. Green Meadow school building committee met recently. ZC, KW and OG were present
  - ii. OG – mentioned concern over the fact that the architect said that net-zero buildings are not possible in New England. ZC did research after the recent meeting which showed that the architect was wrong on this and that we could potentially get more money for a net-zero building.
  - iii. KW mentioned that there would potentially be a sustainability sub-committee for the building
  - iv. ZC says that creating a net-zero building is WAY cheaper to create at the outset than retrofitting
  - v. Links from ZC with helpful resources: [MSBA](#) and [NEEP Zero Energy Schools Toolkit](#)
  - vi. PR recommends that we draft a letter that state our goals with respect to the new school building.
    - 1. JS says the letter should include concrete actions and data to convince the committee to take net-zero choices seriously
    - 2. PR says that our letter should include offer of our support
    - 3. ZC will draft; KW will help; MSK can provide data
- d. Municipal solar
  - i. JC says that the town committee is currently working to get solar on the high school roof and carports
- e. Waste diversion
  - i. MSK presented
  - ii. Broken out into 4 categories:
    - 1. Trash and recycling collection services – MSK says we're in the best possible situation right now; we need to keep "pay as you throw" however we can. EL Harvey wants to switch us to bins so pickup can be more automated. MSK talk to Greg re mattress disposal because there's money for that.
    - 2. Public domain trash (downtown trash and recycling bins) – OG says that plans are being made to redesign Naylor Court (the Basin parking area downtown) t and she is unsure how trash fits into that. JS says we should talk to Bill Nemser.
    - 3. Yard waste and composting
    - 4. Lowering overall waste generation

- f. Nature-Based Solutions
  - i. PR: Lots of communities are working to implement nature-based solutions and to consider ecosystem services. There are tools that are becoming available to help. We should pass them on to the planning board when available.
  - ii. KW and PR will pare down the list and prioritize
- g. **PR – for next meeting everyone should edit/finalize the Maynard Sustainability Plan google doc**
- h. Energy efficiency programs
  - i. Goal: find volunteers who can talk to people in the community about making energy efficiency upgrades (solar, heat pumps, etc)
  - ii. Make a webpage

**VII. Article 3 at town meeting next week**

- a. Will this committee make a statement at this meeting?
- b. OG – Green Maynard will have an info sheet for residents. Based on the vote that we took a few meetings ago, add that the motion is supported by this committee.

**VIII. Final comments**

- a. JS urges PR and/or KW to talk to the Village Beacon about writing a story about us.

**IX. Adjourn at 8:40 PM**

- a. OG moves; PR seconds; 6-0 in favor