

Maynard Sustainability Committee

Minutes, 21 June 2022, 7 PM, via Zoom

In attendance: Orian Greene, Meg Sobkowicz Kline (note taker), Priscilla Ryder (co-chair), Kate Wheeler (co-chair), Zana Cranmer, Lisa Vernegaard, Vince Grano (public member, interested in learning about committee activities including GHG inventory)

Members absent: Sally Warner, and liaison to GM MSBA committee, Ken Neuhauser

General Business

- Minutes from last meeting: role call vote, all approved except Lisa abstained (citing absence from the last meeting).
- Next meeting date: Tuesday July 19 proposed, all present can attend. Potentially to be held in person at the library. Governor executive order to allow remote meetings will expire soon unless it is extended.
- There was general consensus that some meetings in person would be good but that the flexibility to hold some online would also be welcome.

Updates from each working group

- Climate action plan
 - Zana has some students working with her this summer to understand what other towns' CAPs look like, also plans to survey town residents to understand priorities. Plan to hold some targeted workshops with town committees and stakeholders. Targeting town meeting next May to have a report on the CAP recommendations finished.
 - Zana will send out a Google doc containing the survey questions draft so that committee can weigh in and help edit. Collaborative work is ok, but any decisions and finalizing survey will be done as vote (planned for next meeting).
 - Stakeholders will be identified through a question on the survey; we could follow up with focus groups as well.
 - How to outreach and get high levels of completion of the survey? Social media and pushing out through other committees and groups (e.g., Green Maynard, etc.). Kate will check with Greg to see how this is done in other cases.
 - Conversation around the scope of the survey: should we include waste management issues, composting, etc?
- Community Choice aggregation
 - Sounds like we would want to go into the aggregation program on our own rather than combining forces with other towns.
 - Conversation with a volunteer/committee member from Pepperell about the program
 - First step is to interview the aggregation programs and find out what options we have, rates are promised to be lower than without aggregation
 - All programs have an opt out option, rather than opt in.
 - Next step: Sally and Jeff are planning to interview some companies. Hoping to get it on Fall town meeting but that might be ambitious.
- Green Meadow School renovation
 - Not all members had a chance to review the draft letter to the Green Meadow Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) committee. Zana, Kate, and Ken have worked on the

draft in an effort to translate the thoughts of the committee about sustainability in the building plans into a letter.

- Some edits to the letter could include more specific goals for carbon neutrality
 - Conversation around LEED certification standards and goal of net zero (by when?)
 - It is not clear how much pushing is needed from this committee to hold them accountable in the planning process.
 - Lisa mentioned four main goals the sustainability committee should have in recommendations to the MSBA and that they need to be more clearly spelled out. Disclosure around energy and cost payback time over lifetime of building.
 - Committee will vote on letter in principle, with the caveat that the letter will be edited (by Lisa and Kate with comments from Ken). Unanimous approval by the board.
- Waste diversion
 - No word back from Justin and Greg on the Waste management contract task force.
 - Lost opportunity to work with the town DEP to increase our Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant funding from the state. Meg will follow up with Justin on any opportunities to get general waste management funds or a mattress recycling collection bin (\$10K available as grants for this from the state).
 - Orian said Justin is interested in our help with compost improvements.
 - Priscilla said Justin would also be glad to come to one of our meetings to talk to us.
 - Some side conversations with Justin would be preferable before we invite him to share at our meeting, so that the goals of information sharing would be clear.
 - Status quo is the gold standard for low trash generation, but according to Irene Congdon (our regional Municipal Assistance Coordinator) that is likely to go away due to waste management companies' cost structures. The question now seems to be will we go with a 32 gal or a 64 gal trash bin and we will lose PAYT. We are not happy about this and Meg will push back but it is not clear if the budget would allow us to retain PAYT.
 - Nature Based Solutions: on hold for this week as no movement yet.

Miscellaneous business

- Spreadsheet: Lisa will take a stab at cleaning it up
- Kate was interested in having a communications plan or an outreach coordinator to get the word out. The CAP survey would be a good launching activity to share in the newspaper etc.
- Some dangling items sent along by Jeff: net metering solicitation, safe cities network, off fossil fuels commitment... How should we communicate on these things as a group so that we can be responsive to the town's needs? Consensus that forwarded emails are ok, but also adding them to the spreadsheet in a "parking lot" so the group can take up offers/ideas into our strategic goal areas where they fit.
- Comments from public: Vince Grano offered to send a carbon calculator for use to quantify footprint of town's business.

Adjourn 8:45