

Maynard Sustainability Committee

Minutes, 19 July 2022, 7 PM, Hybrid meeting in Campbell Meeting Room, Maynard Town Hall.

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

Members absent: none

Others present: Waneta Trabert (Maynard resident & waste coordinator for the city of Newton), Jeffrey Swanberg (SelectBoard liaison), Vince Grano (community member on zoom)

- I. **Meeting called to order** at 7:01 PM
- II. **Minutes approved** for 21 June meeting; OG moves, MSK seconds, 7-0 approve
- III. **Next meeting dates:** Monday, August 15 at 7 PM (for 90 minutes)
- IV. **Format of future meetings:** August meeting to be held at Town Hall (in a hybrid format with a zoom option). In the future, meetings can be either zoom or in person, we will play it by ear from month to month.
- V. **Overview of waste management from WT:**
 - a. Maynard's contract expired June 30, 2022, but they got a one-year extension. Therefore, a new contract will need to be negotiated soon.
 - b. Renewing the waste management contract is really important because it's easy for hauling companies to take advantage of towns that don't have expertise in this area. A competitive bidding process is not required, so many towns don't do this, but it's probably something we should do to reduce cost for the next contract.
 - c. Pay as you throw system is the best option for reducing waste. Maynard has this now and we should do everything we can to keep it.
 - d. Many towns have "modified pay as you throw." This means that everyone has a similar bin size and then pays for overflow bags. Some towns require residents to buy bags (as opposed to stickers like in Maynard). Some towns have variable lid colors for people who would only want trash picked up less frequently than weekly.
- VI. **Update: Climate action plan (ZC presenting):**
 - a. ZC sent out draft of climate action survey; Everyone on the committee will need to provide updates within the next week (by July 26). We will vote on the finalized version at our next meeting in August.

- b. Survey will be sent out to community members after our August meeting and be available for about a month. (Want to keep it to 10-12 minutes survey length.) The results of the survey will inform what we put into the climate action plan.
- c. ZC will do analysis of results and present preliminary results at our September meeting.
- d. Distribution:
 - i. A link will be posted on the town's website.
 - ii. We will then send it to all the town committees and ask people to distribute it.
 - iii. Posters with QR code hung around downtown
 - iv. Send to schools and be sure to engage high school & middle school students who are often very passionate about environmental/sustainability issues
 - v. Post on town's facebook page and ask people to repost on their own facebook pages
- e. Workshops to engage community about the climate action plan will take place prior to the May 2023 town meeting, when we will hopefully vote to enact the climate action plan.
 - i. The climate action plan can contain individual items that we'd vote on in future town meetings.
 - ii. This is a deliverable from the town's master plan.

VII. **Update: Greenhouse gas inventory** (OG presenting)

- a. Green Maynard is voting at their next meeting and we will get an update

VIII. **Update: Community Choice Aggregation** (SW presenting)

- a. JS, PR and SW met with Ken Hartlage, Chair of the Pepperell Climate Change Council in June to discuss tips for implementing community choice aggregation.
- b. JS, PR and SW will meet with the three energy companies (Peregrine energy, Good energy, and Colonial Power). SW will set up these meetings to occur in the next few weeks.

IX. **Update: Green Meadow School** (JS presenting)

- a. It would probably be helpful if someone from this committee could attend this Green Meadow School's committee meetings.
- b. Once they present their plan, it's a YES-NO vote on the entire thing. By that point it's too late to debate individual items.
- c. They are aiming for basic LEED (if not higher). Our letter requested LEED Gold.

X. **Update: Waste committee task force** (MSK presenting)

- a. MSK on the committee; WT volunteered to sit on this committee
- b. OG spoke to Justin Demarco (DPW director) about encouraging more people to sign up for Black Earth Composting. This is a task that Green Maynard is hoping to take up.

- i. We should look into a grant program to provide an incentive to pay for the first few months for new people to sign up.
 - ii. Right now, we have 167 households in Maynard subscribed to Black Earth Compost. We'd get a 20% discount if we can get up to 300 households.
 - c. MSK wants more trash and recycling downtown
 - d. OG reminds us that the plastic bag and polystyrene ban goes into effect on July 26.
 - i. Market Basket has a big sign about the change, but many other stores may not be aware.
 - ii. Board of Health is in charge of this.
 - iii. Town should post to the town's facebook page: "Help your merchants and remember to bring your reusable bags." OG will send a message to Megan to post to the town's facebook page.
 - e. WT gives some thoughts on the new trash contract
 - i. She says that in 2028 there will likely be a 40% increase in cost for trash disposal. So prioritizing waste reduction should be kept in mind for the new contract.
 - ii. Maynard received a grant to help improve pay as you throw. WT asked PR to ask for status update on this.
 - iii. In our next contract, we should try to get more money for our recyclables because that market has improved greatly in the past few years.
 - iv. There should be a mention of bulky waste and oversize items in the new contract.
 - v. There's wording in our contract that the hauler "owns" the carts. This is a much better situation than having the town owning them. So we should be sure to keep this wording in their contract.
 - f. Wording on trash/recycling webpage should include information about disposing hazardous waste at the Minuteman Hazardous Products site in Lexington.

XI. Update: Nature based solutions (KW reporting)

- a. There's a carbon sequestration report that's coming out soon.
- b. PR, LV, and KW will meet before our next meeting.

XII. Committee webpage

- a. We should have a webpage with lots of useful information for households to become more sustainable as easily as possible.

XIII. Public comments

- a. Vince Grano spoke up about his worries about GHG emissions.
- b. Had questions about community choice aggregation
- c. SW discussed the website for choosing the company that generates your home's energy: <https://www.energyswitchma.gov/#/compare/2/1/01754//>
- d. KW mentioned that there are incentives for private people to make their chargers public

XIV. Adjourn at 8:30 PM

- a. MSK moves; LV seconds; 7-0 in favor