

## Meeting Minutes

### Weston Sustainability Committee

(SusCom)

**21 May 2019**

<b>Sustainable Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Sustainable Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>
Phoebe Beierle (PB) Perm. Bldg. Com Rep	Yes	Rachael Stewart (RS) School Com. Rep	Yes
Member at Large - to be determined		Sandy Kendall (SK) Member at Large	No
Leslie Glynn (LG) Planning Board Rep	Yes	Katharina Wilkins (KW) - Chair	Yes
Victor Guzman (VG) Member at Large	No		

Others Present: Debbie Slotpole (SWAG),

No.	Description	Action
1.	A meeting of the Weston Sustainable Committee was held, as duly posted, in the Town Hall and called to order at 7:05 PM.	-
2.	There was a public comment made by Katharina Wilkins about her recent attendance at a seminar about Community Choice Aggregation - which is when a community/town decides to purchase energy (electricity) according to a prescribed formula in order to help effect a change in how energy is produced. For example, a town may decide to buy an energy mix with a given percentage produced by windmills or solar arrays, which will be supplied to all private and municipal consumption unless residents opt out individually. The first step in adopting community choice aggregation, as strictly governed by MA regulations, is to adopt the plan to pursue it at Town Meeting. Newton and Natick are current participants. KW brought this up to let SusCom be aware of this trend. SusCom will discuss it in more detail at a later date.	
3.	Rachael Stewart (RS) attended as the new member representing the School Committee.	-
4.	The Committee is missing one At Large Member since PB switched to being the PBC liaison. KW has let Kara Fleming know so she can advertise the opening on the town website.	-
5.	It was agreed that SusCom wants to take care not to be redundant with other committees in town, but rather support sustainable efforts and/or educate them as to a more sustainable approach.	-
6.	Sus Com needs to produce an Action Plan which should be data driven and supported. As a first step, the SusCom has begun work on a Sustainability Policy Draft Document. KW noted after conferring with Leon Gaumond that this policy could be integrated into town policy by different routes. 1) The BOS could adopt it as one of the priorities and a town policy 2) It could be adopted at Town meeting as a resolution	-
7.	MVP (Massachusetts Vulnerability Plan) a. PB submitted the application on April 19, 2019. Response from state is expected in the next few weeks. b. Discussion about what SusCom wants the MVP consultant to help with. We need both a solid report stating: town specific concerns and facts, a prioritized list of the path forward - which issues have the highest importance, who are key players, proposed schedule/timeline with goals, as well as a "vision statement and policy" describing big picture ideas and concepts for sustainable town planning. The town needs an actionable list of priorities. c. The MVP should take into account all pertinent reports that have been done previously such as PV Solar, Weston Hazard Mitigation Plan (which needs updating), Open Space and Rec Plan, Aging in Weston, Neighborhood drainage Study, Public Works Improvement Plans, Vegetative Study, ConCom studies, etc. d. Pertinent excerpts from these and other reports should make up the MVP appendix and comprise the MVP concerns and decisions.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. The MVP should engage all age brackets, school children, adults and seniors.</li> <li>f. There was discussion about which consultant would bring the best team to Weston based on reviewing their past reports on line for 2018. 2019 reports are not available until the end of 2019.</li> <li>g. Fuss &amp; O’Neal have worked together previously on Northhampton MVP report which was excellent.</li> <li>h. Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA) have collaborated with VHB engineering and has had excellent community engagement and communication. KLA also has provided other towns with support in developing sustainability action plans (incl grants for their development)</li> <li>i. PB will ask if each firm would consider working together on our MVP report.</li> <li>j. SusCom doesn’t have to make a decision on which consultant until the Town gets the grant and learns how much it is for.</li> </ul>	PB
8.	There was discussion about the Green Communities grant program. SusCom agrees that this is a continuing opportunity the town should take advantage of. In order to qualify for more grant money from Green Communities, the town needs to produce an annual report on how the town is doing with respect to its energy goals for municipal buildings (Charles Young, town purchasing agent, prepares this report). However, to identify opportunities for further energy use reduction, to be submitted for grant applications, the 2012 Energy Audit needs to be updated. KW will collaborate with Leon Gaumond, the facilities department and Charles Young KW on making progress on this topic.	KW
9.	The Sustainability Committee has obtained a Technical Assistance Grant of \$6,000 from the MAPC for energy data analysis and evaluation, and clean energy planning. The work proposed by MAPC will take place in late 2019 or 2020 and thus may not be timely enough to provide input for the 2020 round of Green Communities grant applications. However, this analysis will still be useful for the Town, which does not currently use the data that is collected via MassEnergyInsight for the Green Communities reporting in its decision making and planning.	
10	RS reported that the School Committee is in favor of putting solar panels on the Field School.	-
11	The <b>next meeting</b> of the Sustainable Committee will be held on 4 June 2019 starting at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall. The Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.	–

Attachments: none

Respectfully submitted: Leslie Glynn