

Meeting Minutes

Weston Sustainability Committee

August 6, 2019

Sustainability Committee Members	Present	Sustainability Committee Members	Present
Phoebe Beierle (PB) Perm. Bldg. Com Rep	Yes	Rachel Stewart (RS) School Com. Rep	No
David Ayer (DA)- Member at Large	Yes	Sandy Kendall (SK) Member at Large	Yes
Leslie Glynn (LG) Planning Board Rep	Yes	Katharina Wilkins (KW) – Chair, BoS rep	Yes
Chris Jylkka (CJ) Member at Large	Yes		

No.	Description	Action
1.	Residents present: Julie Hyde, Phil Saunders, Liz Steele	
2.	Agenda Agenda included	
3.	<p>Conversation with Liz Steele re. FUTURE Act</p> <p>Liz and SWAG have been working on accelerating National Grid gas leak remediation, and this state legislation would help with that and more as it covers safety and environmental oversight. E.g., standardizing how the size of a methane leak is measured, or permitting utilities to do more than deliver gas—they would be incentivized to increase their renewable portfolio. The bill would make the regulator more accountable to municipalities.</p> <p>The more towns that support the bill, the more it will be discussed and worked through in the legislature. No action besides a proclamation of support for the bill is needed.</p> <p>SK: Move to support the signing of a resolution of support, a draft of which SusCom will present.</p> <p>KW: 2nd</p> <p>Passes with unanimous support.</p>	KW bring doc to BOS
4.	<p>Conversation with Phil Saunders on Public Land Preservation Act (PLPA)</p> <p>Current protection re. final use of land goes to legislature, with approval by governor. Only a policy, not codified in statute. Works well sort of but not always. Process is confusing and not well understood. With PLPA: Procedural roadmap laid out, if some land is taken out of protected status, equal amount of comparable land (i.e., not industrial wasteland) must be set aside. Not dependent on inclination of whoever is governor. This has been pending for years, with 80-90 cosponsors but nobody's priority. Stumbling blocks: Inertia. Thousands of bills entered each legislature, but small fraction get taken up. Need more legislators to tell the speaker they've been hearing from constituents that they'd like to get this passed. Alice Peisch has long been a cosponsor and talked to committee chairs in support and says it's a priority but not her only one. It could be helpful if SusCom signed a letter of support, joining a list of reputable environmental orgs around the commonwealth. Not many are sustainability committees, though, so we will try to reach out to other municipalities' committees.</p> <p>Motion: Sign the letter (Cc selectmen, Leon, Sen. Mike Bennett and Alice Peisch). and give it to Phil.</p> <p>DA: 2nd - Passed with unanimous support.</p>	KW to sign on behalf of committee

5.	Routine business Welcome new members, David Ayers and Chris Jylkka Review of open meeting laws.	
6.	Website review Plan: update Kara after each meeting about items to post on SusCom pages. For now, send top recent activities: FUTURE Act and PLPA support, recent grant awards	?
7.	Update on Community Choice Aggregation KW summarizes elements of community choice aggregation (CCA). <i>Choice</i> is the operative word. SWAG is committed to pushing for CCA and will request inclusion in the warrant for December town meeting. Town purchasing officer Charles Young reports having had requests about it from town residents. SWAG (including KW) is presenting to BOS on 9/10. Hopes for SusCom support. LG: Moves to urge BOS to add article on proceeding with CCA to town meeting warrant. SK: Expands motion to 3-part support: Urging BOS to include on warrant; supporting publicly at town meeting; assisting with outreach if it passes. 2 nd Passed with unanimous support.	KW with SWAG hat on to talk to BOS
8.	Review of past business Past minutes approved unanimously. Realization we need to prompt school to keep us updated on solar plan.	RS
8.	SusCom letter to Town Center planning group We aim to edit our letter of concern regarding irrigation and bicycle friendliness will revise emphasis regarding a well to be in synch with a similar letter from Planning Board. Sustcom will review at next meeting and KW can present during 9/10 meeting with BOS.	All
8.	MVP update We still need to devise some survey questions. Members may respond directly to PB's email about tasks to help with. So far: DA to help coordinate events CJ will work on survey questions LG will help CJ SK will work on outreach and other communications Goal is to come out of MVP process with prioritized projects for which to seek grant monies.	All
8.	Next meetings Upcoming meetings are currently scheduled for 9/5 (a Thursday), 9/17, and 10/01	

Respectfully submitted: Sandy Kendall