

Natick Sustainability Committee Meeting

February 4, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

- Members: Leo Ryan, Carey Buttfeld, David Mogolov, Alfredo Vargas, Rachel Serotta, Devon Long-Lytle, Nick Adams Pandolfo
- Staff: Jillian Wilson Martin
- Guests: Bing Boucher, James Freas, Edward Arthur, John Moran, Sam Gifford

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

Updates to January minutes: Update Raphael's name, update time to 7:30pm

Natick Center Parking Requirements, James Freas

- Select Board & Planning Board putting spring Town Meeting item forward to update downtown parking requirements.
- Fall Town Meeting removed the residential density requirement, but not the parking requirement.
- As Planning Board and Select Board develop proposal, James will return with details for committee to review.

Electricity Aggregation Policy, Jillian

- Discussed draft policy to create incremental increases in renewable content of town's aggregation program towards 100% by 2030
- Committee to provide Jillian feedback prior to February 18. Renewable Natick also to review prior to March Select Board presentation of draft policy.
- Policy would follow state's lead in defining clean energy according to Renewable Portfolio Standard and Clean Energy Standard (CES), as well as new Clean Energy Standard for Clean Existing Generation.
- Update will allow Natick to increase our additional clean energy in smaller increments over time.
- Public forum will be held on March 19 at 1:30 pm.

Net Zero Policy

- Presentations to boards so far: a lot of support for our process, but also some questions about GHG measurement method. Future updates will need to be clear about methodology
- Jillian presented draft community survey. It will go out in Jillian's newsletter and be shared with various boards.
- Alfredo raised question of outreach in Metrowest Daily News & Boston Globe regional section, James suggested QR code for survey at Commuter Rail, postcards, Local Town Pages.

- Strategy Summit: Jay Turner of Wellesley College (Natick resident) to play role in process. Will schedule an off-site meeting to review GHG strategies and discuss how they might fit within the plan.
- Focus groups have been targeting into mid-April. Could conflict with Town Meeting, but the crossover isn't total.

Community Outreach Updates

- Event at Temple Israel with new solar array. Jillian and Leo to talk about the Net Zero Plan.
- Homeowner Welcome Kit letter with water bottle and town trail map. Nick has drafted the letter and looked to partner with real estate agents for distribution. Partnering with a single realtor could limit distribution of the kit. Nick and Jillian will coordinate with multiple realtors to determine how to maximize distribution.

Heat Smart Massachusetts (Sam Gifford)

- Sam prepared a document on HeatSmart, which is a Solarize-style program for aggregating homeowner buying power towards four home heating technologies: heat pumps, geothermal, modern wood heating & solar hot water
- Sam will lead the application process. 2021 applications are due in November 2020.
- Sam is speaking with past participants, and Jillian will connect him to Arlington (past participant) and Wayland (potential partner community)
- He will continue to update the committee as the process develops. Next update in April.

Renewable Natick Update (Carey Buttfeld)

- Recent meeting focused on updated outreach and collaboration with other local groups
- Encouraging more members to run for Town Meeting
- Renewable Natick will be involved in many upcoming public events

Town Meeting Article Ideas

- Solicitation of ideas for upcoming Town Meetings. Are there sustainability topics we'd like to see addressed?

Solarize Natick

- SunPower Inverter corrective action—the production losses aren't guaranteed, but once the final 20 or so homes get their updates, the conversation will progress. Work is still ongoing.

Other Business/Member Updates

- Ed Arthur is an advocate for and expert on electric vehicles and home battery units. Available to consult on related issues as the committee needs
- Cole Center charger is now online, JJ Lane and Community Center coming online. New units require payment, previous units did not
- Thank you cards out to community compost volunteers & leaders

Next Meeting Date

- March 10