

Natick Sustainability Committee Meeting

March 10, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

- Members: Leo Ryan, Carey Buttfeld, David Mogolov, Rachel Serotta, Devon Long-Lytle (by phone), Alfredo Vargas
- Staff: Jillian Wilson Martin
- Guests: James Reas, Sam Gifford, John Moran, John Mangino, Rob Richie, Hattie Tsai, Richard Moon

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM, adjourned at 9:01 PM

February minutes approved

Public Speak: no items raised

Net Zero Planning Process Update

- Strategy Summit is scheduled for 3/14. If cancelled or postponed due to coronavirus, we could create a series of webinars to post to the Town's website.
- Focus Groups: Some progress organizationally, but we need to identify co-moderators on some groups, some co-moderators candidates have not responded.
- Emissions tool: The transportation numbers were incomplete, but with MAPC, the gap has been addressed, and revised numbers will be available shortly.
- Finance Committee needs to see and approve a Town Meeting presentation from Sustainability. Committee voted to approve Jillian writing and presenting an update on Net Zero to the Finance Committee on its behalf. Some discussion on presenting what "net zero" means
- Survey: Please take and share

Heat Pumps

- Sam Gifford is the HeatSmart coach for Natick. Natick will partner with Wayland (and maybe more communities) on an application for the program.
- Information on a new group, HeatSmart Alliance, composed of coaches from towns that have previously participated in the program. They're hosting well-attended public events to educate people interested in heat pumps. Sam will alert us to upcoming events.
- Next step is to create a survey to gauge community interest, to inform an application. Applications open May through November.

Parking Policy Amendment proposal for Town Meeting, James Reas

- Proposal would bring DM district residential reqs in line with rest of town, with lower req for 2-BR units
- Removal of parking minimum for ground-floor commercial replaces complex waiver process
- Instead of unused fee-in-lieu policy, developers can take other steps to reduce parking demand for special permits. This would also move the limit for permits from 10% to 25%.
- New covered bike parking requirement for multi-family residential
- In parallel with these changes, the town needs to manage downtown parking better

- Motion by Leo Ryan to endorse proposal, seconded by Alfredo Vargas; Committee voted unanimously to endorse the proposal

Earth Day Update

- Vendor applications are coming in, new website is up, Metrowest Earth Day group is up and running
- Tent Talks are filling up, entertainment is booked, planetarium is doubled (and funded by grant)
- Need to develop Committee activity for Earth Day

Kennedy Middle School Battery Storage

- Looking to adding a battery system at the Kennedy Middle School. The KMS Building Committee has approved it. Now it just needs site plan minor modification approval from the Planning Board. The battery isn't a backup for the school, but will discharge to cut school's peak demand, saving on electricity costs.
- Over 20 year Power Purchase Agreement, it is expected to save an additional \$290,000 just on demand charges.

Welcome Kit

- It'll be a shared realtor package, not just one realty office. The Farm is interested in participating as well. The kit would include swag, the Community and Economic Development Office may also participate in a kick-off meeting with realtors.

Renewable Natick

- Recent event with both Sunrise Movement and Elder Climate organization. RN is forming connection with Sierra and other groups
- Earth Day event will have a tree for children to hang "wish leaves" on while RN talks opt-up and other issues with parents
- Yesterday's meeting with David Linsky was very positive - he said that there'll be state legislature activity by end of session. Legislation needs more sponsors. Linsky isn't on it, but is pursuing meetings with its lead sponsors, and RN has him closer to getting on board with it

Electricity Aggregation Policy

- Jillian's memo lays out rationale for setting incremental increases to get aggregation up to 100% by 2030. This means Natick would require 45% on top of the 55% state requirement in 2030, but we would get there gradually, rather than in the big leaps some communities are taking.
- Policy addresses price stability and respects resident concerns about household costs, and continues to enable resident opt-outs.
- Plan brings Clean Energy Standard projects into the portfolio of clean energy sources
- Motion made by Leo Ryan for Committee to endorse proposed policy; Carey Buttfeld seconded; Committee voted unanimously to endorse the aggregation policy proposal

Repair Cafe

- Presentation to Rotary Club scheduled in April to pursue insurance coverage