

Natick Sustainability Committee Meeting

April 9, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

- Members: Leo Ryan, Carey Buttfeld, David Mogolov, Rachel Serotta, Devon Long-Lytle, Alfredo Vargas, Nick Pandolfo, Sasha Shyduroff
- Staff: Jillian Wilson Martin
- Guests: Rick Devereux

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

Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March 10 meeting minutes as amended made by Devon Long-Lytle, seconded by Rachel Serotta

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0

Public Speak: Rick Devereux presented a proposal to limit landscaping noise as a public health and environmental issue. Mr. Devereux proposal included:

- Increased pedestrian activity and hours at home during COVID-19 distancing raises the level of concern about noise from landscaping tools (beyond traditional concern over lack of protective gear for those who use them). Environmental concerns have driven policy change in other communities.
- Rick sent a letter to the Board of Health and Select Board to suggest at least temporary limits on residential properties.
- Rick has been invited by Carey Buttfeld to participate in an upcoming Coffee With a Purpose event.

Net Zero, COVID-19 reboot

- Jillian is requesting Planning Board email blast of survey, which currently has ~320 responses. Initial responses presented (no analysis yet conducted)
- People most want to be involved via surveys, focus groups, and sharing of updates on plan progress.
- Highest priorities: Fixing gas leaks, requiring energy efficiency in both new & existing buildings, increasing clean energy % in delivery, bike/pedestrian improvements, and tracking of mid/large building energy use
- Discussion of getting more participation: FB groups, church newsletters, community groups, other boards
- Timeline for Net Zero planning and updates will change based on COVID and the corresponding new economic & organizational concerns

- Jillian will record video message for Earth Day focused on inventory—could it drive participation in a virtual public forum?
- Strategy sessions could now be online, and focus groups will need to be restructured/rescheduled to perhaps be online. Public forum on inventory and intro of strategies could feed into groups and videos
- Another approach to consider is regional coordination between towns for trickier issues like natural gas/new construction policy

Earth Day

- Live event canceled, but virtual events will be held
- Committee could have a video - Leo and Alfredo will take first pass at this

MVP grant candidates

- Regional grant with neighboring communities & Charles River Watershed to study flood potential across watershed. Conservation Commission will vote on funding next week.
- 2 energy resiliency projects - Planning for redundancy for powering water treatment and delivery during power loss & a Wilson Middle School project for creating
- Dam-related project - Proposal for process development that is fair, open, and takes all stakeholder perspective neutrally

Homeowner welcome kit

- Not much update - email or Zoom would have to replace the planned breakfast

Mass Energize

- Recent multi-community meeting was well-attended. There's still a problem for municipal partners insofar as it includes vendor recommendations/partners

Other items

- Clean Your Attic Day also canceled for 2020
- Action item: David to draft 2019 annual report, send to Jillian
- Should we have a Mass Save energy audit program? Paired with the HeatSmart initiative, it might work