

Natick Sustainability Committee Meeting

May 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM (motion by David, seconded by Leo), adjourned at 8:48 (motion by Leo, seconded by David)

Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve April meeting minutes as amended made by Leo, seconded by Devon

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0

Public Speak: No requests

Net Zero Communications: MAPC has suggested informational interviews in place of focus groups, starting with key partners and getting recommendations of next people to pursue.

- Jillian joining call with Arlington to hear their review of the ~100 strategies they're considering. Our conversations could focus on next 5 years' priorities and home energy efficiency (heat pumps, new construction standards)
- Interviews can be the basis for community involvement efforts in the months to come and can help shape draft report. Could precede focus groups, and could help us hone our message and draft to get more feedback.
- Sasha suggests pre-interview content on the strategies, also emphasizes planning based on time available in call.
- In conversation, include discussion of what changes in 5 years could enable some of the longer term changes
- Committee is in favor of pursuing this informational interview/online focus group approach.
- Planning for strategy summit: aiming for end of June. Base on interview feedback, survey analysis, and review of top/favored strategies
- Additional next step: Leo to send update for boards and committees; re-emphasize request for survey feedback as part of the update. Survey will go out to Natick 2030 list

New homeowner welcome kit: Due to difficult timing with realtor community, we're able to get list of new homeowners/water hookups, and could use that as the basis for delivering the kits ourselves. Community Organic Farm is now contributing to the kit, as well.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Chargepoint (pay for use) stations have been installed at the football field, JJ Lane, East Park, and are scheduled to be energized by Eversource this week.

- Leo notes that utilities are struggling to meet their sustainability goals because of restrictions on their access to residential units
- Goal of future locations is to balance them geographically through the town

HeatSmart, municipal partnerships, and renters:

- Sam Gifford has been attending organizational meetings for HeatSmart and emailing details as he learns. Jillian has spoken with Wayland. We could partner with Wayland and Framingham potentially. MassCEC needs survey results for application in early fall 2020 for a 2021 campaign.
- MassSave has a program (currently in operation in Framingham), where a certain number of audits would earn a grant for the town. The grant could be applied to a heat pump program
- We'll need volunteers for events, open houses, door knocker campaigns, and whatever the social distancing equivalent would be

MVP Action Grants:

- Jillian is drafting the grants discussed in April

Other business:

- Approved annual report, motion by Leo, seconded by Devon and approved unanimously
- Town budget discussions haven't yet led to specifics about changes that will impact the Committee's work. Committee concerned about funding of Sustainability Office, looking at what can be done to advocate for continued funding.
- Several grants have been applied for, including one to expand carbon inventory tool to include offsets and additional analysis of sources
- Town exploring recycling contract that was reported on in the press. Details not fully determined yet

Next meeting date: June 2, 7:30pm