

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm**  
**Town Hall, 40 Center Street**  
**Fairhaven, Massachusetts**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK

2021 FEB -3 P 2:39

All participants attended meeting remotely.

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:30pm, via Zoom

FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Wendy Drumm, Susan Spooner, Deirdre Healy, Karen Gent, Leon Corey and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Alternates Present: Kathryne Moniz, Christin Ritz and Jim Anderson

**MINUTES**

Deidre Healy motioned to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting and seconded by Susan Spooner. Vote was unanimous by roll call (6-0).

**OCTOBER ECOCHALLENGE**

The EcoChallenge is complete and we're looking for ways to bring in new participants. Susan Spooner suggests we have more publicity to increase participation, perhaps make more teams within Fairhaven to increase competition, also have prizes from local companies to incentivize. Whitney suggests to have "team goals" in addition to the individual actions. Next Challenge is in April.

**PELICANOPS FOLLOW UP**

Susan explains PelicanOps initiative has been co-opted by "WATERGOAT" and would be more suited to Fairhaven. They look like barrels or buoys tied together that corrals the debris. Volunteers would be needed to empty. Corporate sponsorships are available. Pricewise the range is \$1,700-\$3,300 which is much less than the skimmers that were \$10K. Whitney- is there potential to explore partnership with Be The Solution to Pollution to link with citizen science. Terra core fellows through the Buzzards Bay Coalition could be an opportunity to find volunteers. Kathryne asks how often they would need to be emptied. Susan does not know yet and would depend on the size and how much debris is collected. Jim asks how you would decide on the location with water and boating activity and are they close to the land. Susan explains the nets would be set up with the current and the natural flow of the water. Deidre has experience with beach cleanups and contacts that could be a good resource to the process of collecting the debris. Christin asks about the costs and how funding happens and what is entailed with process of removing debris. People would need to manually remove the debris into trash disposal bags on land. Money can come from Revolver account which is left over from when the committee ran the farmers market, we could apply for different grants. Fiscal budget for 2022 has a line item could be included in the department budget. Jim asks how are the bags of trash is disposed of. Within the next month speak with Susan as this seems more doable. Christin points out that her neighborhood in Sconticut Neck the property lines don't extend too far out on the ocean front so there may be more public access. Wendy brings up the point it will be an educational opportunity as well to see. Whitney when working with on the

NOAA Marine Debris Grant she found there could be options for rope recycling and may want to get involved as well. We could consider a harbor-focused educational outreach between New Bedford and Fairhaven since we have a shared harbor. Jim supports this idea of being a harbor project and thinks it would be interesting if we could track the debris, for example releasing a milk jug. Leon brings up the point of the sustainability and reliability of releasing milk bottles into the bay. Whitney uses the example of using an orange to track within the currents as a biodegradable option.

### **SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Annual Report for Green Communities went in on Nov 6th, SRPEDD was helpful getting that out and also getting our designation in the first place. We are waiting to hear back from the State on any edits needed before the final report can be shared and posted on the website.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Deidre states the letter for DEI has been submitted. Ann will now send in the letter of support. Leon says there will be a selectman's meeting on Thursday where it will be discussed because Dan was not at the meeting last night. Whitney checks the published agenda and it isn't listed. Ann directs there is a form online that can be submitted to request an agenda item if this isn't addressed in the meeting Thursday. Whitney checks the published agenda released 48hrs before the meeting and it isn't listed. Signing the updated community aggregation agreement is listed and reminds Whitney to provide an update to the Committee on that. She has been working with Good Energy on an educational piece for the community with their options.

The artificial turf field was mentioned last week but was missed to be included on this week's agenda. The Sustainability Committee was not asked about the turf grass school committee meeting and neither was the Planning or Conservation. The cost for the field is 1.2 million. It is on the School Committee meeting tomorrow and it's on the agenda- however they don't take public comments. Jim speaks up that he has done some research on the topic and found there's a need for the whole field to be treated with chemicals/sanitizing agents every time the field is used- how much will be used and what will the runoff be? There are hazards of artificial dirt that also can cause injury because of the different frictional coefficient compared to dirt and can cause infections such as MRSA. Ann personally gave a note after the town meeting to the school committee members with her thoughts but hasn't heard anything from the Superintendent and says if we have more concerns that is how we should present them. Jim asks if we can ask someone to brief the sustainability committee on the turf grass. Ann says he could ask during the meeting but it might not be addressed at the meeting. Leon has a different perspective as his brother played 12 years in the NFL, although he doesn't know the environmental impact of the type of turf but its likely field turf or astro-grass with recycled rubber pellets as simulated dirt. It has a similar response to grass but there are more injuries on artificial turf than grass and most professional athletes prefer actual grass. However, having actual grass in our geography is more expensive due to upkeep with the amount of use it

getting and in our harsher climate. It's much harder to maintain a grass field but from a physical standpoint it's still preferred. Ann thinks as a town we have not been informed enough about the topic and a cost comparison and apologizes this wasn't on the agenda.

Next meeting: December 15, 2020 per group consensus. Reminder if you want something on the agenda let Whitney or Ann know by Wednesday the week before the meeting- the 8th. The conservation and sustainability office will be closed from December 23rd through January 3rd as Whitney will be on vacation. Town is giving free COVID-19 testing on Saturday, info on website. Whitney can facilitate setting up any non-quorum Zoom meetings and shared a link with the School Committee Meeting Agenda. Town website has all public meetings listed.

#### **ADJORNMENT**

Deirdre motions to adjourn and is seconded by Wendy. Vote was unanimous by hand raise. (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Gent