



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meeting Minutes **January 21, 2020** ***Town Hall, 40 Center Street*** **Fairhaven, Massachusetts**

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Susan Spooner, Wendy Drumm, Anne O'Brien, Karen Gent, Deirdre Healy, Leon Correy and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Chairperson Ann Richard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

DECORUM

Ms. Richard reminded the committee that it is being recorded and that the committee members should be mindful of what they say during the public meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST SUMMARY

Ms. McClees distributed the conflict of interest summary for the committee members to complete and submit to the Town Clerk's office.

SUSTAINABILITY CAFÉ/SUMMIT

Ms. McClees has gathered and distributed comments on a possible Sustainability Café/Summit from and to the committee members. Ms. Richard said that she had spoken to Tourism Director Christopher Richard and Mr. Richard is willing to offer space within his department's existing Saturday Huttleston Marketplace this spring/summer for the inclusion of a sustainability initiative such as a weekly sustainability café/demonstrations. As long as the committee signs up with specific dates, there would be no cost associated with setting up workshops. Ms. Richard has not approached the Town or the Schools for use of the High School auditorium space, but that space may not be necessary if the committee can be included in the marketplace.

Ms. Healy said that she would support the idea of making the sustainability café workshops part of the outdoor marketplace. The marketplace starts on June 6. Ms. Gent suggested including the

sustainability weekly themes for the marketplace in the green column planned for the weekly newspaper.

The Sunday Fairhaven Farmers Market on Alden Road has also extended an invitation to the Sustainability Committee to have a space at their weekly market as well.

The committee agreed that it would proceed with the sustainability café/workshop concept within the existing Huttleston Marketplace. Ms. Richard will check on the dates and then the committee will create a schedule of topics.

PLASTIC BAG BAN – CITIZEN PETITION

The Town Administrator's office received a citizen's petition for a plastic bag ban in Fairhaven. The committee will review the proposed bylaw and comment at a later meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR REPORT

Ms. McClees said that the Municipal Vulnerability Workshop, held the previous week, was very successful, with over 35 attendees from a variety of local and regional organizations. Topics related to town-specific vulnerability issues relative to climate change, and the prioritization of issues to address to improve the town's resilience. This will help the town pursue federal and state grants for the purposes of strengthening the Town's resilience in the face of climate change. There will be a public review meeting in spring 2020 based on the direction of this workshop.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee is February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Brien motioned to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Ms. Spooner seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes approved February 18, 2020