



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

**Town Hall, 40 Center Street**

Present: Wendy Drumm, Chairperson Ann Richard, Anne O'Brien, Karen Gent, Deirdre Healy, Susan Spooner

Absent: Leon Correy

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

## MINUTES

Ms. Healy motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0). Ms. Healy motioned to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting. Ms. Spooner seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

## SUSTAINABILITY CAFÉ/SUMMIT

Ms. Richard signed up for the dates that the Sustainability Committee would be hosting Sustainability "cafes" or "workshops" at the Huttleston Marketplace. The dates are: June 6, July 11, and August 1, 2020. Specifics have not been entered into the application for space for the marketplace, but the committee will work together before June to give specifics on the activities scheduled. Ms. Richard said that the committee has some money to create reusable bags that could incorporate the new committee logo and could be distributed at the marketplace. The Committee was supportive of having the bags created for distributed. The Committee considered sustainable food sourcing as a theme for the first café event. Ms. McClees suggested partnering with a local farm to help with a local-sourcing theme in June and the EcoChallenge Plastic Free July. The members will come to the committee with their food ideas for the June 6 meeting.

## ALDEN ROAD FARMER'S MARKET

The organizers of the Fairhaven Farmer's Market on Alden Road, Joe and Loralynn Beaulieu were present at the meeting to offer an invitation to the committee to have a booth at their Sunday markets, which begin on June 21. The market includes local honey, all-natural cleaning supplies, meat, baked goods, and two produce vendors. The market is held weekly during the season from 11 am to 3 pm.

## EARTH DAY 2020

Ms. McClees informed the Committee that the New Bedford Earth Day event for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, will include a Pier 3 event in the afternoon. The event will include speakers and music. The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is invited to have a table as well within a 10 by 10 foot space. The Committee would have to bring its own tent and tables. Participation would require a commitment of 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Ms. Healy suggested that if the Committee does not want to commit to a full booth, it could also participate in the march that will be associated with the Earth Day event. Ms. McClees will get more information from the event organizers to see what the other themes are, to give direction to the Sustainability Committee in considering an idea for the event.

## MONDAY MORNING FUN PROGRAM

Tourism Director Chris Richard maintains a "Monday Morning Fun Program", which is in its sixth season on Monday morning, and runs throughout July and August from 9:00 to 11:30 am. The event provides free activities for young families. Mr. Richard offered the Sustainability Committee the opportunity to participate in the event. The Committee will think about ideas and will discuss at the next meeting.

### **PLASTIC BAG BAN DISCUSSION**

The Committee reviewed the citizen-petitioned plastic bag ban article from Frederick Jones. The petitioned language is based on a previously approved plastic bag ban that was passed and is currently enforced by the Town of Dartmouth. Ms. O'Brien motioned to support the chairperson to work with the petitioner for wordsmithing on the article. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

### **2040 MASTER PLAN**

Ms. Richard and Ms. McClees presented the Committee with a copy of the Sustainability's responsibilities under the Town's 2040 Master Plan. Going forward, the Committee will try to make sure its activities keep in mind the recommendations of the Master Plan. Ms. Healy recommended discussing it further at subsequent meetings for more comprehensive implementation.

### **COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION**

Agenda item was submitted by Ms. Healy. In addition to energy aggregation with other municipalities, communities can aggregate the source of their energy to push for renewable portfolios of energy purchasing. On March 7, there will be a workshop from the Mass Climate Action Network. Ms. Healy will share details of the meeting with the Committee. Ms. Healy will research further and the Committee will consider advocating for the initiative with the Selectmen.

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

Ms. McClees said that they submitted the NOAA Debris Prevention Grant – results are pending. We received a joint Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action grant with New Bedford and it will focus on the harbor and sea level rise predictions, and will include a maritime business toolkit for those who are reliant on the harbor for commerce. The initiative has to be done by June 30.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee is March 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm.  
Ms. O'Brien motioned to adjourn. Ms. Spooner seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Anne O'Brien

Minutes approved April 15, 2020