



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2020

***Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts***

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

Absent: Leon Correy and Lois Callahan

Chairperson Ann Richard called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom conferencing and was recorded for Cable Access.

MINUTES

Approval of the May 19, 2020 meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

The Committee tabled nominations for Committee leadership positions for the next meeting.

COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION

The Committee discussed the Climate Reality effort to draft a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen to support a ten (10) percent increase in baseline renewables as a part of the community electricity aggregation plan. Laura Gardner and Jean Lawlor were present at the last Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the effort, including a survey to gain community support in going forward with the 10 percent renewables baseline increase. The survey will gauge the public's interest in the baseline increase, which will have an opt-out feature. The survey will be available until July 20 and the results will be shared with the Selectmen's Office for consideration.

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Ms. McClees reported that a press release on the Ecochallenge Plastic-Free July will run in the upcoming issue of the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Discussion ensued on the creation of a local team that would not conflict with another regional team.

MASTER PLAN

The Committee agreed that the Master Plan will continue to be a standing agenda item to allow for ongoing discussion on how the Sustainability Committee will advocate for projects and initiatives consistent with the Master Plan recommendations. Discussion included efforts to become what used to be called a “STAR community” and dark sky lighting bylaws.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR REPORT

Ms. McClees said that the Town did not receive the NOAA Marine Debris grant, but she will regroup and re-apply next year. Ms. McClees reported on the status of a Coastal Resilience grant through CZM to advance MVP actions, specifically on harbor resiliency. This grant application is shared with New Bedford.

Other grant updates included an extension on a Green Communities grant to allow for use through December 2020, and a Selectmen’s vote to accept grant funding for the installation of a public-facing electric car charging station.

BILLS

Three vouchers were reviewed: one for Rich Taber for \$39.92, one for Pam Greene in the amount of \$11.92, and one for Jean Lawlor in the amount of \$9.99. All three invoices were for community garden supplies reimbursements and will come from the gift account. Ms. Drumm motioned to approve the reimbursement for Mr. Taber. Ms. O’Brien seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve (6-0). Ms. Spooner motioned to approve the reimbursement for Ms. Greene. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve. (6-0). Ms. Spooner motioned to approve the reimbursement for Ms. Lawlor. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve. (6-0). Ms. Spooner motioned to approve \$143.60 to Delano sawmill for wood to repair the beds in the community garden, also from the gift account. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

Ms. Spooner motioned to approve \$340.00 for an advertisement in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News for the Community Electricity Aggregation, with the funds coming out of the Revolver Account. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee is July 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Brien motioned to adjourn at 7:01 pm. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne O'Brien".

Minutes approved August ____, 2020