

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

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

All participants were present remotely.

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

Alternates Present: Kathyne Moniz and Jim Anderson

MINUTES

Leon motioned to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting and seconded by Susan Spooner. Vote was unanimous by roll call (6-0).

NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND INFO

Information on town website, virtual public meeting on Jan 13th at 6pm to all who is interested.

COMPLETE STREETS UPDATE

Jim attended a presentation with a consulting group, Green International Affiliates, to go over the results of the Complete Streets Initiative. It's a statewide program by Mass DOT to provide funding to modify streets and deemphasize vehicle need. We are at tier 2 of tier 3 process- applying for funds, \$38,000, for developing a prioritization plan headed by the Planning Board. Tier 3 is up to \$400K per year for construction. There is more information on the town website with a map where you can log points of needing improvement with comments such as places that are dangerous, points where ADA access is limited etc. Goal is improving infrastructure and improving safety.

MARINE DEBRIS- WATERGOAT, OTHER IDEAS

Learning that the Watergoat doesn't work as well in open waterways and functions better in rivers or streams and catching debris downstream. This might not be a good fit for Fairhaven. Possible funding from New England Grassroots Environmental Fund for one of the 3 debris collection options that have been brought up. Kathyne comments she has Carolin Reeves contact information of the Muddy Water Initiative to reach out. In future years we could propose this as part of our capital plan budget. We could reach out to the Town's Harbor Master for potential locations.

2040 MASTER PLAN

Susan addresses shipping sludge to Cranston RI because our digester isn't working and what is the cost to town to do this. We don't produce enough waste to turn on the digester but public works would be able to address this. Looking into STAR rating for the town now the LEED program could be an initiative we could focus on. Community perseverance grant comes up

every year that we can come up with ideas to focus on for next year. Low hanging fruit could be addressing building more resilient neighborhoods and community networking. Complete Streets is in Master Plan as well.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Update on the Community Electricity Aggregation program we had submitted letter of support, increase baseline renewables by 10% starting in January. Constellation New Energy will be the new electricity supplier. [Masscea.com/fairhaven](https://masscea.com/fairhaven) to read about different rates. Customers can opt in for extra renewable energy at a higher rate. Good Energy, the consultant to the program, provides general statistics on the program over the years. At any time during the program can you change your renewables election. Jim would like to see more detailed statistics on the enrollment within the Town. There is a form at the bottom of the MassCEA website that shows you a cost comparison between the different supply costs with renewable energy opt in. Each contract is 3 years and up for renegotiation and renewal. If you already have a competitive supplier elected this aggregation won't affect you.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Annual Report is due first week of January. Deidre on the DEI Committee, Selectman Freitas tabled the request until we have a new town administrator, hoping to still get some movement with that for this year. Ann submitted a letter of support for the DEI on behalf of the Sustainability Committee. Individuals are urged to write letters to the Selectmen to get the DEI Committee on the agenda.

Next Meeting January 19th, office will be closed Dec 23rd to Jan 3rd, any urgent matters the point of contact will be Paul or Vicki in the Selectmen's office.

ADJORNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Gent