

**MEETING MINUTES****Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6:30pm**Quorum/Attendance

Present: Tim Garcia, Ann Richard, Susan Spooner, Wendy Drumm, Christin Ritz

Absent: Karen Gent

Ann Richard notified that the meeting was being conducted remotely and did a roll call vote to confirm that a quorum of members was present remotely.

Land Acknowledgement: Read by Ann Richard

Minutes

Deirdre Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting, seconded by Wendy Drumm. Motion approved unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote.

Tim Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting, seconded by Deirdre Healy. Motion approved unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote.

Single-Use Plastics – Advisory Group Update

Christin Ritz provided an update. The advisory group worked on a draft of a survey to be sent out to businesses and will be presenting that to Health Agent David Flaherty for review and approval. Once the survey is approved, it can be sent out to businesses from both the Board of Health and the Sustainability Committee.

Wendy Drumm noted that they are working to be collaborative with businesses in this process.

Green Spaces, Open Spaces, and Pocket Parks

Tim Garcia noted that he and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees met to discuss further. She reached out to Buzzards Bay Coalition to see if they might be able to assist with installing a new trail off of the bike path to increase enjoyment of our local Town-owned open space. BBC does not have the bandwidth right now to assist but may be able to provide some insight. Mr. Garcia and Ms. McClees will continue working on this.

Seed Library

Ann Richard noted that the seed library has returned to Millicent Library and is up and running.

Ms. Ritz noted that she received a donation of left-over seeds from the farm she works for to contribute to either the seed library or the Seeds for Senior's program.

#### Seeds for Seniors

Ann Richard and Wendy Drumm will be reaching out to the new Council on Aging director Martha Reed to discuss this program and instating it again this year.

#### EcoChallenge – Planning for April Event

Deirdre Healy provided an update that there is an event being planned for Aha Night in New Bedford for Earth Month and that it would be great if Fairhaven could have a float.

Christin Ritz reminded the Committee that last April she reached out to the middle schools last year to get them involved with the EcoChallenge and would be happy to do so again. She also mentioned potentially doing a green business recognition, especially now that the single-use plastic survey is going to be going out.

#### 2040 Master Plan

No particular updates at this time.

#### Sustainability Coordinator's Report

Whitney McClees updated the committee on the following items:

- Green Communities competitive grant is nearly completed and final grant reporting is in process. We just missed the window to apply for a spring round competitive grant, so we will be aiming for fall round.
- The Electric Vehicles grants are moving forward and the charging stations have been ordered, to hopefully be installed within the next month or two. The electric vehicles are still high in price due to supply chain delays and the computer chip shortage, but hopefully we will have the grants finished up by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.
- Discussing the possibility of a town-wide vulnerability assessment funded either through the Municipal Vulnerability program or Coastal Zone Managements' Coastal Resilience grant. She has reached out to both CZM and MVP for feedback on the initial proposal in advance of the grant application request for responses being open.
- Working on submitting a letter of interest to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to be included on a federal grant to assist with Hazard Mitigation Plan update funding. Our HMP is due for update in 2023.

Deirdre Healy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Christin Ritz. All in favor by hand raise. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.