



Fairhaven Sustainability Committee

November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Susan Spooner, Wendy Drumm, Ann Richard, Anne O'Brien, and Whitney McClees. Deirdre Healy joined the meeting at 6:36 pm. Karen Gent joined the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Chairperson Ann Richard called the meeting to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 6:32 p.m. The meeting was video recorded by the Cable Access department.

MINUTES

Ms. Spooner motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting. Ms. Drumm seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0).

PEOPLE'S ECOCHALLENGE WRAP-UP

Ms. McClees gave an overview of the fall 2019 Drawdown EcoChallenge for Team Southcoast. Activities ranged from creating zero-waste meals, spending time outside, reducing plastic consumption, etc. The campaign ran from October 2 to October 23. The team finished 127 out of 814.

HALLOWEEN SWAP WRAP-UP

Discussion ensued on the Cable Halloween Open House costume swap. The group had positive comments about the event and almost all the donated costume items were taken. The group would like to do the swap again next year.

TRASH SKIMMER UPDATE

Ms. Spooner offered an update on the Clean Oceans Access trash skimmer. Ms. Spooner reported that a group consisting of Max Kramer, Gary Lavalette, Tim Cox, and Whitney McClees to discuss feasibility and timeline for implementation of the skimmer. The process could take up to 8-12 months before implementation. Feasibility will include identifying volunteers or funding for the ongoing maintenance of the device and removal of trash collected; Community Boating has expressed interest in lending its assistance with the project. Ms. Spooner said that she hoped that Fairhaven businesses would consider sponsoring the cost of the skimmer, which is estimated at \$12,000. The group discussed the effectiveness of an ocean skimmer over the "boom" floating net trash removal method. There are skimmers in Portsmouth and Newport, RI. The location of the skimmer will be dependent on currents, winds, and accessibility, to maximize its effectiveness. The next step in the process will be to identify funding for the skimmer.

SUSTAINABILITY CAFÉ

Ms. Richard revisited the topic of a Sustainability Café, its feasibility, and planning. She asked the group if it was interested in organizing something for the Café into the coming year. Ms. Spooner suggested that the Sustainability Committee might want to consider partnering up with the Unitarian Church, who also hosts periodic presentations/workshops on progressive issues, including green initiatives and issues of social justice. Ms. Healy and Ms. Drumm will form a subcommittee among themselves to sort out the details, schedule, and assignments.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS GREEN TIPS/SUSTAINABILITY COLUMN

Fairhaven Neighborhood News (Beth David) is willing to offer space in her newspaper (when space is available) for the Sustainability Committee to offer regular columns on sustainability topics. The Committee will discuss a potential column at a future meeting.

HUTTLESTON MARKETPLACE: CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET

Christopher Richard emailed Ann Richard and Whitney McClees to inform them that there is the possibility of the Huttleston Marketplace becoming a Certified Farmer's Market, which will make it possible for vendors to offer SNAP benefits to attendees. He is asking the Committee to encourage local certified farmers to join the Huttleston Marketplace to bolster its case for becoming a Certified Farmer's Market.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE LOGO

Ms. McClees presented the Committee with an updated logo, based on comments provided by the Committee from the first draft. Ms. O'Brien motioned to accept the logo (see attached). Ms. Richard seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0). Teacher Christine Neville oversaw the students involved in the logo creation. The committee will request the names of the artists from Ms. Neville, and Ms. McClees will draft a press release to share the Committee's new logo with the public.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR REPORT

Ms. McClees reported:

- The lights at the COA and the Recreation Center are now fully LED.
- We are still waiting on an update from the utility for the projects at Hastings Middle and Fairhaven High Schools.
- Town Meeting approved the PILOTS for the rooftop solar arrays for the two town elementary schools. The project will include an educational outreach component for the students to learn more about the solar panels and how important they are to sustainability.
- The Town received a \$12,500 from the MassDEP Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Fleets grant for two (2) electric charging stations and two (2) electric vehicles for Town use. The grant does not cover the full amount; approximately another \$10,000 will be needed to cover the rest of the cost, and Ms. McClees is working on identifying additional funding sources. Ms. Richard recommended that the grant press release should be framed as the first Sustainability Committee column with the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee will be December 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall Banquet Room.

Ms. O'Brien motioned to adjourn at 7:24 pm. Ms. Spooner seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anne O'Brien

Minutes approved December 17, 2019