

MINUTES – DRAFT

Sustainability Committee Meeting – VIRTUAL MEETING

January 6, 2022

Attendance: Committee members: Patricia Sesto, Co-chair; Janet Stone McGuigan; Karyn Calcano; Sarah Cocco; Ashley Cole; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Elise Hillman Green; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; Aleksandra Moch; Jill Oberlander; Joan Seguin; Silvina Skverer; Svetlana Wasserman.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.
2. **Minutes.** Upon a duly motion made and seconded, the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting were approved.
3. **Update on staffing request – Stone McGuigan**
 - a. Stone McGuigan stated that she had made a formal staffing request in the updates section of the Board of Selectman meeting. No further updates at this point.
4. **Discussion on Proposed Seal of Approval – All**
 - a. Purpose – Ms. Sesto asked Ms. Skverer to explain the origins behind the Seal of Approval concept. Ms. Skverer explained wanting to have a process for validating businesses and non-profits undertaking sustainable practices. At this stage, there are still unanswered questions, including how to manage this seal of approval, is the public engaged in this topic, and what is the purpose behind this certification? Along with a seal of approval idea, there needs to be more education and outreach on what constitutes sustainable practices.

Two ideas were presented: a sustainable certification for businesses, homes, or combination, and a sustainability award.

Ms. Sesto asked the Committee if we are ready as a Committee; has the Sustainability Committee become a community entity that has value in embarking on a certification program? Ms. Skverer recommended starting small, focusing on one business sector such as golf clubs or marinas as a pilot program.

Ms. Ghiorse questioned where this certification would live within the Committee- within the business sector or within each sector? Ms. Moch recommended that training might be needed for businesses interested in becoming more sustainable. She also recommended interviewing a cross-section of businesses to understand the value of a certification.

Ms. Sesto recapped the conversation so far. The Committee agrees that we're not ready for the certification at this moment, but internally ready to build out the process. The business sector is developing an initial pilot survey, and then will expand with other sectors. Starting with golf courses and boat clubs, looking at baseline data, can they be more sustainability in terms of waste, energy, etc. The business sector will share their template and other sectors are responsible in reviewing and making sure the survey includes components of each sector.

- b. Next Steps: The business sector will work on the survey in January and February. **Action item:** Sectors will send 3-5 questions by January 20th to Ms. Oberlander and Ms. Skverer. **Action item:** Ms. Stone McGuigan and Ms. Sesto will reach out to Ben Branyan about the Sustainability Committee having its own Facebook page.
5. **Sector Updates.** – written reports provided. No further updates.

6. **State of Sustainability semi-annual Report** – Stone McGuigan

Ms. Stone McGuigan asked for sector updates by January 24th. The same format will be used again, PowerPoint, which she will send out. She would like to give a teaser at the Board of Selectman (BoS) meeting on January 27th, with the report completed by the February 10th BoS meeting. Ms. Calcano will create a draft marketing sector page for the Committee's review to include in the report. **Action item:** Stone McGuigan to send out the format of the previous semi-annual State of Sustainability Report. Stone McGuigan to make a formal invitation to Fred Camillo to attend the February 3rd Sustainability Committee meeting.

7. **Review of Committee Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles** – All

Ms. Ghiorse stated that the Committee's original purpose was to advance SCT and POCD, but there are other various topics that the Committee should weigh in on. She asked if there could be a communications platform between the town and this committee? Ms. Stone McGuigan stated this Committee will continue to discuss how we can make our voices heard.

- a. Semi-annual selectman meeting update – Stone McGuigan
See discussion above under "State of Sustainability semi-annual Report".

8. **Next meeting items:**

- Ms. Skverer and Ms. Oberlander to report on the pilot survey for golf courses and marinas.
- Core sector updates – standing item from everyone
- Semi-annual State of Sustainability Report- standing item from everyone
- Mead Point discussion – Ms. Sesto to ask Margarita Alban on how this Committee can be involved with the P&Z process to comment.

- Stone McGuigan and Sesto to send out a poll to determine future meeting dates.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd at 11am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM

Sarah Cocco
Conservation Resource Manager

DRAFT