

## Meeting Minutes

### Weston Sustainable Committee

(SusCom)

**January 7, 2020**

Sustainable Committee Members	Present	Sustainable Committee Members	Present
David Ayer (DA) Member at Large	Y	Rachael Stewart (RS) School Com. Rep	N
Phoebe Beierle (PB) Permanent Bldg. Com Rep	Y	Sandy Kendall (SK) Member at Large	Y
Leslie Glynn (LG) Planning Board Rep	Y	Katharina Wilkins (KW) Chair, BOS Liaison	Y
Chris Jyllka (CJ) Member at Large	Y		

Others Present: Imaikalani Aiu, Weston Town Planner

No.	Description	Action
1.	A meeting of the Weston Sustainable Committee was held, as duly posted, in the Town Hall and called to order at 7:06 PM.	-
2.	<p>Public comments from Heather Hathaway (North Ave)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerned about the fact that furniture and quality materials are left outside the swap shed at the Town transfer station in the bad weather, deeming them ruined and then they are trash.</li> <li>- Concerned about the safety of the swap shed and the fact that there is no lighting in the building</li> <li>- Suggested that the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) working group make their meetings and discussions more transparent and public. Put the meeting times on the website and record the meetings.</li> <li>- The PAYT working group should consider a “Weigh as you throw” option, which provides much better data for the town. PB added that the industry globally is moving toward this option.</li> </ul>	-
3.	Minutes of the December 10th meeting were reviewed and approved.	-
4.	<p>Imai Aiu, Town Planner presented to the committee the summary of findings from the Water Demand Analysis &amp; Forecast study. The Water Study Committee was formed in 2017, and now that the analysis and data is in hand, the group must meet to define goals and next steps. Imai was looking to include a liaison to Sus Com in the working group, in particular to collaborate on future MVP action items. Furthermore, water conservation is a sustainability topic and part of the charge of Sus Com, with measurable performance indicators.</p> <p>A vote was passed unanimously to appoint Alan Orth, a member of the Sustainable Weston Action Group (SWAG) with expertise on water systems, as the liaison from SusCom to the Water Study Committee.</p> <p>LG suggested that Alan Orth has a wealth of historic perspective on how water has been managed in Weston over many decades and that information should be shared with others in town (ex: Planning Board).</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at Town Hall.</p>	-
5.	<p>Status update on Community Choice Aggregation</p> <p>There is a workforce convened to keep CCA moving forward which included Charles Young (Town purchasing), Leon (Town Mgr), Katharina Wilkins (SusCom) and Debbie Slotpole (SWAG). CJ volunteered to join this working group. The group is planning to coordinate interviews on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> with the two vendors who are candidates for the next step of selecting an CCA broker/consultant – Good Energy and Peregrine.</p>	KW, CJ

6.	<p>Status update on Field School Solar</p> <p>The solar PPA contract with Solect was signed and the application for the State SMART program was submitted. PB will find out more and next steps from facilities at PBC 1/8/20. SusCom should coordinate meeting with Field School leadership and Superintendent about how to integrate this project into the curriculum or green team activities at the school.</p>	RS, PB
7.	<p>Status Update on MVP</p> <p>Weston was awarded a \$100K MVP Action Grant to develop a climate action and resiliency plan for the Town. The allocation was slightly less than the original request so PB is working on adjusting the budget and scope. PB will lead the drafting of an RFP to hire a consultant to complete the work by July 2021.</p> <p>Related to remaining MVP planning task of youth engagement, PB met with Cambridge School of Weston students and sustainability staff to talk about their efforts and goals in mid-December. The students are eager to connect with others locally. SK will connect PB with her daughter from Weston HS who is involved in environmental activities so the connection can be made between these groups.</p>	PB, SK
8.	<p>Status Update on LED Lighting Audit</p> <p>KW updated the group that Jerry from Facilities is working on putting together a grant application to help fund some of the LED lighting project with the goal of energy use reduction. The current proposal from RISE engineering for a lighting replacement is extremely comprehensive, and a project of the right scope for a 2020 Green Communities grant submission needs to be identified, in order to position Weston to not only be awarded a 2020 grant, but also to complete the project on schedule on continue to be eligible for GC grant funding in 2021 and beyond. PB &amp; KW will set up a meeting with Jerry to support him in drafting the application. The grant deadline is anticipated sometime in March, and there is usually short notice given.</p>	KW, PB
9.	<p>Status Update on PAYT</p> <p>DA is the liaison from the SusCom to the PAYT working group. Jackie Johnson was recently hired in the role of Transfer Station supervisor (besides being the Parks and Cemetery supervisor). She will be involved in this group as well.</p> <p>The group has met twice and is figuring out their scope of work. Their goals are to identify a plan that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An effective way of reducing waste and increasing recycling rates</li> <li>- Fair for everyone in Town</li> <li>- Cost effective, and</li> <li>- Convenient</li> </ul> <p>Feedback given to DA by Sus Com revolved around the magnitude of any proposed changes, and efficient communication to residents with opportunities for feedback.</p> <p>The committee will meet next on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> and Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
10	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PB updated the group that she had a meeting on 1/3 with Michelle Grzenda (Conservation Commissioner) about MVP follow-up, her goals for 2020 and how the SusCom can support her efforts. She is interested in a public education campaign around proper forest management, invasives, and pollinators and pesticide/herbicide use. Michelle mentioned the great education series that Concord ran recently as a model for Weston.</li> <li>- A Pesticide/Herbicide/Pollinator protection working group is forming through SWAG. They are currently figuring out their scope of work. If you are interested in this topic, please contact KW to get involved.</li> </ul>	-
11	<p>Letter to School Committee in support of student-led climate initiative ‘Meatless Mondays’</p> <p>SK drafted a letter of support for the Weston High School students’ initiative to implement a “Meatless Monday” meal in the cafeteria. This group will be presenting their plans to the School Committee, and we hope our letter of support will help provide them with confidence and acknowledgement, and will eventually allow this good idea to be implemented.</p>	SK, KW

	<p>Additionally, KW reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade student council at the Field School implemented a switch from disposable cutlery to reusables. Committee members felt that this is worth celebrating and so KW will find out more about it and who was behind the initiatives.</p>	
12	<p><b>Sustainability resources and goals for 2020</b></p> <p>Sus Com has had an extremely successful year 2019, but has been operating at a pace that exceeds reasonable expectations for volunteer involvement and workload. Our real need in 2020 is help and support from an individual who serves on town staff, and can coordinate the various ongoing projects, and grants we have secured and would like to continue pursuing. KW and DA worked to submit a special budget request for a full-time sustainability position. Leon will present the budget to the Select Board on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> when we will find out if it was included or not.</p> <p>KW added a note regarding 2020 goals: The list of 2020 project ideas from the December Sus Com meeting were just that, ideas and areas of potential interest. They are not all projects that we are or will take on. If SusCom takes on a project, it will have a champion and POC.</p> <p>LG and KW will coordinate to update the website with more information about what was accomplished in 2019 and what is coming in early 2020.</p>	DA, LG, KW
13	<p>The <b>next meeting</b> of the Sustainable Committee will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 starting at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall. The Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.</p>	–

Attachments: none

Respectfully submitted: Phoebe Beierle