



# Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

## ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021

**Time:** 7:00pm ET

**Location:** Zoom Video Call

### **Present:**

- Matt Marshquist – Chair
- Rob Moolenbeek – Member
- Margy Gassel – Member
- Chuck Lidz- Member
- Mark Moniz- Member
- Ash Ratanchandani – Member
- Kevin Mullins – Member (to be sworn in)
- Margaret (Maggie) Musoke – Associate Member
- Frank Nakashian - Sustainability Coordinator
- Florence Seidell - Resident

### **Citizen Participation**

- Florence Seidell suggested to make Marketing the Committee's efforts/programs an ongoing/standing agenda item – all present agreed; Discussed calling it "Community education and adoption."

### **Committee Members and Position Elections Update**

- Kevin and Maggie were confirmed as regular and associate members during the Select Board December 16, 2020 meeting.
- Ash reviewed revised descriptions for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk for committee input and approval.
- Group discussion\* commenced on positions and responsibilities for each, including how best to delegate and designate "owners", divide up work, and make progress as a committee toward long-term goals.
- Matt formally asked for volunteers to serve each of the corresponding roles. After careful deliberation and group discussion, the following roles were confirmed and approved by all members present:
  - Ash Ratanchandani – Chair
  - Rob Moolenbeek – Co-chair (Margy Gassel back-up)
  - Kevin Mullins – Clerk

*\*Note: Also mentioned during discussion that Mark is working on 2021 timelines and deadlines for committee work.*

### **Sustainability Coordinator updates**

- LED lighting upgrades occurred at Town Hall (replaced the ones that were damaged). Frank ensured all went smoothly.
- Solarized Heat Smart Program (aggregation program)
  - Researching Heat pump vendors
  - Town updates - Frank going to touch base with Jillian from Natick (awaiting signature); Holliston – currently with town officials/Frank had conversations with volunteers; Framingham – Frank in touch with sustainability coordinator. Committee comfortable with leaving them out if they are holding up next steps.
  - Once the program is underway there will be minimal work required from the Committee. Vendors will do work and most of marketing; Feb 1 – target for releasing the RFP
- Frank met with [Ashley Place](#), Communications and Cultural Events Coordinator, Town of Ashland re: promote the aggregation program; Also discussed stand-alone sustainability newsletter (as well as potential integration into town social channels)
- Frank looking into potential mailers for utility bills + Ashland paper for program visibility (solarized program, compost, Class 1 Rec)
- Still awaiting the Department of Public Utilities to approve Class 1 Rec
- Frank looking for inputs on strategic plan write-up

### **Town Meeting and Election**

- Upcoming Town Meeting (1/25/21) and official voting on 2 articles for new town projects, Mindess Building & Public Safety Building
- Group discussion for Committee recommendation for 2 articles for Town Meeting – all members present approved statements collectively drafted to highlight considerations to sustainability within both projects.

### **State Legislation and Net Zero**

- Committee discussed the upcoming vote on Climate bill for Gov. Baker – Matt suggested avenues for committee members to take to show support of the bill.

### **RMI Building Electrification Program**

- Next steps: Set up time to discuss and long-term plans

**Approve Meeting Minutes:** No minutes were available.

*Meeting adjourned at shortly after 9pm ET*