



# Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

## ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Date:** Monday, February 1, 2022

**Time:** 7:30pm ET

**Location:** Zoom Video Call

### **Present:**

- Ashwin Ratanchandani – Chair
- Chuck Lidz – Vice Chair
- Kevin Mullins – Clerk
- Rob Scherer – Select Board representative
- Margy Gassel – Member
- Matt Marshquist – Member
- Terry Campbell – Resident
- Mark Dassoni – Resident
- Rob Moolenbeek – Resident
- Amol Rane - Resident
- Florence Seidell – Resident

### **Net Zero Update**

- With Rob Scherer in attendance, Ash gave an update/overview on where we are today in terms of the Net Zero plan
- Rob S. felt that the Annual town meeting is the right forum, the vehicle for town discussion for town decisions (like the net zero plan)
- Inclusionary housing (an example that came out of the plan that will be at Town Meeting) - blueprint for how to get things passed
- Rob S. suggested deciding on something we can get into the framework
- Matt asked about process about inclusion plan - and what is specifically being voted on
- Ash wondered whether the Net Zero plan itself is too big for town meeting (do we pick out 1-2 priority items; it needs more specificity)
- Chuck suggested that it may be a series of things for people to vote on
- Rob S. asked about what MAPC would recommend
- Rob S. also suggested going to Select Board with thoughts on what we want to bring forth to Town Meeting

- Ash mentioned ideas of representatives from various committees in order to co-lead/collaborate on various initiatives; Suggested Committee provide a status update at Town Meeting with overview of major initiatives and bring specific elements (like a tree bylaw) that require a decision/vote
- Path may be a set of public hearings in advance of town meeting (provide forum for input/debate/discussion)
- Ash to reach out to Moderator Adam to get feedback; Rob S. to solicit feedback on approach from Select Board
- Warrant open until April 27th

### **Ashland Public Library update (Margy)**

- Neetha would like the Sustainability Committee to do a presentation in April at the Library; and to follow on with quarterly presentations
- Library inviting EV speaker in March (from Newton)
- Library put together some content suggestions:
  - Overview of the Sustainability Committee and our missions – reminder of Resolution in 2019 to achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2040
  - Projects we are undertaking to reach this goal include
    - Waste reduction
    - Natural resource protection
    - Clean and efficient energy in buildings and transportation
    - Promoting curbside composting
    - Reducing single use plastic
  - Margy's content suggestion quarter over quarter:
  - July 2022
    - Waste Reduction
    - Zero waste
    - Plastic
    - Composting
  - October 2022
    - Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change
    - Tree protection and preservation
    - Climate resilient community projects
  - January 2023
    - Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency for Buildings
    - Ashland's aggregation program
    - Opportunities for homeowners including solar and electrification
  - April 2023
    - Clean Energy for Transportation

- Electric vehicles, mass transit, biking and walking
- Florence suggested working with new Sustainability Manager on this plan
- Margy needs to get back to Neetha with date for presentation at Library in April – to ask about 7pm timeslot for weekday
- Event planned for kids (where they can plant a sapling)
- Quick discussion of appropriate timing for Environment (due to tree bylaw aspirations for Fall Town Meeting)

#### **Other Items**

- Opportunity to start weaving more of the Net Zero plan into the overall Town Plan (via Rob)
- Ash to re-connect with Michael about offer for new Sustainability Manager - 3 potential candidates – not sure if offer was accepted by candidate
- Margy and Matt met with Anna and Marcelo from Planning Board – went through high level Net Zero plan (with MAPC template as well)
  - At next meeting, Committee will discuss what we want to bring forth as a new bylaw (which we'd need to collaborate with the Planning Board on)
  - Ash asked about whether incentives for builders was discussed
  - Planning Board mentioned that the Committee needs to follow up on the Resolution recently passed
- Deadline for Article with Town Pages (Feb 10) per Matt, for March
- Rob mentioned outreach to the Farmer's Marketing regarding "Equity communities" – part of MAPC. Rob sent more detail to Ash; Ash may reach out to Maggie about it
- Rob and Terry working on getting clear measures from the town; Terry mentioned reaching out to Eversource to get data (as representative of town); Ash mentioned that timing of new Sustainability Manager may impact timing or potentially ask Michael to do outreach on behalf of Committee; Terry to draft something for Ash to send Michael

*Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10pm*