



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: 3/18/25

Time: 7:00 pm ET

Location: Zoom

Present:

- Ashwin Ratanchandani- Chair
- Chuck Lidz- Vice Chair
- Margy Gassel- Member
- Cara Hulme- Member
- Zack Trapper Fey- Member
- Sam Riley- Sustainability Manager
- Reshum Aurora-- Ashland Resident
- Rob Moolenbeek- Resident
- Florence Sidell- Resident
- Mark Dassoni- Resident

Citizen Participation:

Mark Dassoni asked if this group would be involved in a group about zoning bylaws, housing, and building design to build stronger zoning bylaws?

Ash voiced that if this were to become a working group, the sustainability committee would be enthusiastic about joining.

Mark then asked Cara if this would be a topic of discussion at the upcoming comprehensive plan meeting?

Cara was not sure, but would report back if it was discussed.

Minutes:

Approved Minutes from 2/4/25.

40B Development Recommendations:

Cara shared her development recommendations for the Waverly Street 40B project. This included;

- What is the actual layout, there were two sets of plans?
- What is the mixed use?
- No mention of heating or cooling methods, and recommended geothermal
 - Will it be designed like Homer Ave and be electrified
- Solar?
- EV charging stations/ e-bike charging stations?
- Recommended gathering point for public transportation
- Concerns with lack of information on; stormwater runoff, heat island mitigation, onsite recycling and composting
- Promotions to not damage forested wetlands

Margy commended Cara's work for this recommendation, but voiced concerns that what has been submitted for this project by project developers is inadequate for not providing detailed information about the project.

Zack volunteered to take Cara's notes and turn it into a formal comment narrative to submit to the zoning board.

Ash and Zack discussed ensuring that the building will follow the updated Stretch Code.

Cara talked about collecting stats for the stormwater impact this will have on the town, Reshum volunteered to help collect this data.

Zack suggested a building footprint that would require the least amount of trees to be taken down. He suggested an underground parking lot.

Margie recommended permeable payments for the parking lot.

Reshum suggested having the building obtain a LEED certification.

Zack did some research, solar canopy lots are a lot more affordable than underground parking to reduce heat island impact.

Select board feedback breakfast:

Cara mentioned she attended the Select Board feedback meeting, she noted many other committees were envious of the Sustainability Member having a high school member.

Cara at the event voiced wanting more connectivity between the sustainability committee and the select board and other committees.

Sustainability in Schools:

Margy updated the group on creating educational materials around recycling.

Ash suggested seeing if there are educational programs with existing content we can use/ bring in school groups.

Reshum volunteered to look into various styles of educational materials.

Community Solar:

Chuck suggested making a working group with Rob and Sam to increase solar within the Town.

Ash volunteered to create a meeting for the working group to meet.

Plastic Water bottle Greenhouse:

Rob asked about the plastic waterbottle green houses, voicing that there was support from the community garden.

Reshum gave an update on the greenhouse, saying that after the tree planting fundraiser the club will shift their focus on the greenhouse.

Rob asked what type of water bottles they will be collecting, Reshum said large water bottles.

Business Recycling pilot:

Cara met with Beth Reynolds to discuss the restaurant recycling pilot, Beth is going to introduce Cara to Ashland Ale House, Stones, and 2Mauro's- Recycling Works MA, is still on board for the project.

Climate Games:

Zack updated the group that the tic-tac-toe will be engraved with geothermal facts. The second game, a maze, is in development.

Committee Priority Items:

Ash shared with the committee the priorities list that was created when creating the Net Zero resolution. Ash will update the list, and ask that everyone go through the list.

Energize Ashland Updates:

- Newsletter just went out
- possibility of doing a heat pump campaign in the fall, work with the Laminar collective
- Will be applying to receive money from the Select Board for marketing material
- Looking to put on a seminar for green investing

Sustainability Manager update:

- The town will take part in a program to get LEED certification for the community
- Sam gave an update on MassSave, there was a \$500 million dollar budget cut, we will receive word at the end of April where the budget cuts will be from, currently the MassSave community grant is on pause.
- GreenUp Ashland will be applying in the fall for the holiday light recycling event

- Eversource will be sending a mailer to all Ashland residents about the recycling event on April 12th
- Will be conducting a feasibility study for charging stations located within town
- Coordinating with Holliston for regional compost drop off bin
- Spoke with business manager at the schools about reducing waste starting with the Pittaway School

Meeting Concluded 9:00pm

Next meeting will be

April 1st at 7:00pm on Zoom

Documents discussed:

-40B recommendations

-Net Zero priority list

