



# Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

## ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Date:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022

**Time:** 7:00pm ET

**Location:** Zoom Video Call

**Present:**

- Ash Ratanchandani – Chair
- Chuck Lidz – Vice Chair
- Cara Camerato-Hulme – Member
- Margy Gassel – Member
- Matt Marshquist – Member
- Terry Campbell - Member
- Brian White - Resident
- Florence Seidell – Resident
- Mark Dassoni – Resident
- Rob Moolenbeek – Resident
- Sima Khamitkar - Resident

**Citizen Input:**

- None

**Town Meeting Review and Lessons Learned:**

- Support from others for Sustainability's warrant was strong and evidence of committee's work to gather that support was obvious
- Sustainability's warrant was more about intent rather than specific action. It may be harder to gather support for specific action
- Cara suggested involving other groups in supporting our positions using the example of the Girl Scouts working with the forest committee. Rob suggested involving high school students. Matt suggested getting experts involved as they have greater credibility.
- Ash suggested we seek co-sponsors for future initiatives

### **Tree Bylaw Discussion:**

- Margy suggested training for town staff and board on low impact development to help inform positions on development versus sustainability
- Cara will pursue forest committee co-sponsorship of tree bylaw
- Margy will lead the discussion in the next meeting to focus on objectives

### **Governance Model**

- Approval of the warrant at the town meeting requires that we move forward in establishing a governance model for implementing plans coming from the strategy
- Start from Ash's presentation in our discussion. We should review this document prior to the discussion.

### **Priority List**

- Terry suggested the following adds to the priority list:
  - All town government new or upgrade buildings must be carbon free
  - All town government purchase or lease of sedan or SUV vehicles must be electric vehicles
  - Fund a study of how to retrofit all town government buildings to be carbon free
  - Determine how to move to class 1 energy supply
- Ash suggested we need to make the next school bus contract for electric buses
- Sima suggested that the compost contract, which is up for renewal this year, be changed to have it as part of curbside pickup instead of a separate fee service

### **Plastic Bag Ban Violation**

- Board of Health is responsible for enforcement
- Board of Health issued a verbal warning and will follow up

### **Sustainability Manager Status**

- Offer made to a second candidate, negotiations were not successful
- Another candidate being considered

### **Filling Clerk Role**

- Kevin has notified the Select Board of his resignation and needs to complete his resignation with a 'wet' signature
- Ash proposed Terry Campbell to fill the Sustainability Committee Clerk vacancy. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Newsletter**

- Matt will send the sustainability newsletter monthly, ideally one week after the first committee meeting of the month

## **Town Webpages for Sustainability**

- Ash, Cara, Margy will work on webpage content
- Cara will get password for Facebook page from Kevin

## **Minutes Approval**

- Minutes for April 26, 2022 approved

## **Extend Our Reach**

- Rob questioned how we can extend our reach
- Cara proposed a November event focused on new homeowners and how they can make sustainable improvements

*Meeting adjourned around 8:50pm ET*