Location: Ashland Town Hall

Participants:

Matthew Marshquist - co-Chair
Kyle Ahlers - co-Chair
Margy Gassel - member
Chuck Lidz - member

Guests:
Marc Dassoni
Rob Scherer
Elina Navruzbekova
Tessa Venell

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 with an introduction of members and guests.

Meeting Minutes:
The meeting minutes from the 6/4 and 2/19 meeting were approved.

Net Zero:
The meeting began with a discussion of the experiences with our tent at the Farmers Market Saturday at Green Living Day (6/29).

- The children’s area was well attended
- The board has a lot of votes for different ideas about the changes that can help get us to Net Zero.
- There seemed to be a lot of support for the goal.

Rob Scherer joined the committee for a discussion about the Net Zero proposal at Town Meeting.

There will be a general resolution for the Town Meeting to approve. We will make use of other towns’ experience to develop ideas that we can use as a response at Town Meeting.
There was a discussion of the need for expertise beyond looking what other towns are doing. Many towns and cities who have gone through the process already have reached out to consultants for assistance with certain types of planning. MAPC is currently using funds from an Environmental grant to assist three municipalities with their Net Zero planning process: Natick, Melrose and Arlington. This assistance will include the creation of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory Framework & Tool, as well as a Net Zero Playbook.

The group discussed the potential to reach out to both MAPC (Matt) and Natick (Kyle) to discuss the process they are following. Kyle will see if a member of the Natick Sustainability group or staff member could attend a future meeting.

Rob asked whether there was a need for more funding beyond the commitment of the town for the sustainability coordinator. There was agreement that there is not an immediate need for more funds but there will be in the future.

Matt presented information from his research of the Cambridge net zero plan.

Their report is on the Cambridge website online and contains an overview of their recommendations as well as the supporting documents used in planning. Their process involved the creation of a building energy use report, a report on the feasibility for solar development and a report on renewable energy. They also created several models to assist with the development of their recommendations. For the building energy report and renewable report, they relied on paid consultants. They were fortunate to have a solar expert on the committee who created their solar recommendations.

Cambridge passed an energy reporting ordinance, which requires buildings over a certain size to report their annual energy use. This is critical to their targeting the correct buildings with incentives to increase efficiency.

The process of creating their plan took place over 16 months.

The group reviewed the Newton plan Net Zero summary which Chuck created. Their plan includes different actions than Cambridge, as well as slightly different topic areas than what we are considering:

1. Municipal leadership
2. Clean energy supply
3. Mobility
4. New construction
5. Existing buildings
6. Resource use and disposals

Tessa noted that MCAN has a plan for the steps necessary to get to Net Zero. Their guidance includes the following common topic areas:
1. Electricity
2. Buildings
3. Transportation
4. Waste

What is our process for developing a plan?

Chuck proposed having each of the working groups develop a list of potential actions, based on actions from other town plans or new ideas generated by residents. The groups would also begin to develop a list of the information needed to establish the baseline data for each category.

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to enlist additional help, in the form of a task force. This could involve a broader group such as experts in certain fields or members of key stakeholder groups in town. Chuck suggested using the town meeting to launch the request for members for the task force. This might involve including language to this affect in the resolution, although this change was not voted on.

Event ideas:
Matt recommended hosting the sustainability summit some time in September or later, to allow time for the new Sustainability coordinator to join the event.

Tessa’s husband was interested in hosting a 5K race to help benefit sustainability efforts in town. The committee discussed possible uses for funds raised, including providing an energy efficient grant to a family in need. Matt suggested discussing this idea with the marketing/communications/events group which will be meeting soon.

Matt discussed potential ideas for an article in town pages. Tessa recommended an article about what things the town has done to be sustainable already would be helpful.

Other updates:

Sustainability Coordinator:
This position will be posted soon on the town web site. The goal is to hire the person by the end of August.

Plastic bag bylaw:
The state law has left committee but has been greatly watered down to the point where it would be better if it were not passed. It does not include a fee, which is a basic requirement for most state bans and it also includes language to the effect that it supersedes town bans, even those which are stricter.

Matt will follow up with Margy and Elina on the reusable bag observation dates.
**Action Items:**
- Kyle to reach out to Natick group and invite them to an upcoming meeting.
- Matt to reach out to MAPC to discuss their project and opportunities to collaborate.
- Matt will review the process used by various towns/cities and create a proposal for Ashland’s process.

- Working groups to research action items and baseline data for their topic areas:
  - Buildings
    - Chuck
    - Eddy
  - Electricity/Renewable Energy
    - TBD
  - Business Industry
    - Ash
    - Tessa
  - Transportation
    - Kyle
  - Biological Resources
    - Margy
    - Florence - trees
    - Elina - plant based diets
    - Sarah - local eating
  - Events/Communications/Outreach
    - Matt
    - Sarah

**Future meeting dates:**
- July 23rd
- August 6th
- August 20th

**Documents referenced for this meeting:**
- Newton Net Zero Plan summary
- MCAN – MA moves forward on Net Zero stretch code
- Terra Cycle – email from Andrea Greene
- MAPC – Clean Energy Update
- Zero Waste Project Update – email from Kristie Pecci
- Climate Change causing new disaster each week warns UN – news forwarded by Rob St. Germain
- Soak up the Rain New England webinar series – forwarded by Rob St. Germain
- Net Zero Research – What other towns are up to
• Cambridge – Net Zero Plan Page