



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, July 12, 2021

Time: 7:00pm ET

Location: Zoom Video Call

Present:

- Ash Ratanchandani – Chair
- Rob Moolenbeek – Vice Chair
- Kevin Mullins – Clerk
- Margy Gassel – Member
- Chuck Lidz - Member
- Matt Marshquist – Member
- Mark Moniz - Member
- Cara Camerato Hulme – Resident
- Mark Dassoni – Resident
- Florence Seidell – Resident
- Margaret Musoke - Associate Member
- Frank Nakashian (S. Coordinator)

❖ **Citizen comments**

- Mark asked a question related to environmental impact of solar + heat

❖ **Ashland Farmers Market**

- Meeting began with a discussion of the July 17th event, time coverage/hours, and what's needed:
 - Print out Smart heat and Solar handout – Frank – Ash to pick up on the 16th
 - Print out NetZero Flyer – Frank – Ash to pick up
 - Challenge Banner – Ash to pick up from Frank
 - Sustainability Banner – Matt
 - Compost Bin – Ash will bring
 - Sign-up Sheets – Matt has a format

- Tables, tent, chairs and bungee will be borrowed from the Farmers market shed. Will need to be transported to corner spot and then returned
- Kevin to send reminder on Facebook and Matt to send reminder on Mail list
- Ash showed handout for Committee review and decision on which one to use at Farmer's Market (Matt helping) – will be printed out
- If anyone has future event ideas, send to Frank

❖ Other Committee Items

- Margy showed incentive work (Net Zero summary) and Committee reviewed together
- Waste and Overconsumption (Margy)
 - Margy discussed urgency around plastics as a topic we need to put on radar and shared the following article and facts
 - <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-delusion-of-infinite-economic-growth/>
 - Why Plastics Are Also A Climate Issue
 - Plastic emits greenhouse gases throughout its lifecycle, from extraction of the gas, oil and coal used to make it, to disposal through incineration or breakdown in the environment. Some of these emissions are not included in emissions and reductions scenarios, including the UN's.
 - Plastic will account for more than a third of the global growth of oil demand by 2030 and nearly half by 2050 - more than trucks, aviation and shipping combined.
 - The oversupply and therefore cheap price of oil, fracked gas and coal means that fossil-fuel and petrochemical companies are devising new uses for plastics and investing heavily in expanding plastics infrastructure. Plastics manufacturing is growing faster than other greenhouse gas intensive industries like cement, aluminum and steel.
 - Plastic production and waste appear to be reducing the ocean's ability to absorb greenhouse gases, and possibly soil's
 - Webinar on July 14 at 11am-12pm where interested folks can [register](#) to hear about three great bills that will reduce single-use plastics, fix our broken recycling system, and make corporations responsible for the waste they produce from the legislators that sponsored them.

❖ Sustainability Coordinator updates - Frank:

- Coordinating to get program inserts in Aug trash bills (companies will reimburse for inserts)
- Quality Assurance review for 10% of projects

- Ongoing support answering resident emails on program
 - Always looking for ways to increase subscribers for eblasts
 - Frank met with Regional Electric School Bus Procurement Advisory Board (to see how/if Ashland can explore)
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- Rob asked about ground-based trial plan (per Frank Achieve not selected); Ashland remains viable as a town candidate
 - Committee also discussed about additional items that can be brought to Corner Spot (sample sustainability items)
 - Kevin showed updated messaging overview for Committee for review

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm ET