



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, July 26, 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
- Cara Camerato Hulme – Resident
- Florence Seidell – Resident
- Mark Dassoni (toward end) - Resident
- Frank Nakashian (S. Coordinator)

❖ **Ashland Farmers Market and Corner Spot events**

- Engagement from a wide range of individuals
- 15 people added their names to the sheet
- ACE Solar was good in conversation – but may not engaging enough in bringing people to table (at Farmer’s Market)
- May be been too much standing in front of table blocking people at Farmer’s Market
- Feedback from visitors including challenge of living in condo unit
- Placement next to ice cream truck helped at the Corner Spot
- Access to table and chairs from Farmer’s Market
- Quality of the engagement was a little better at Corner Spot
- Future ideas:
 - Should we have a gimmick/draw?
 - Could students go around and talk to people?
 - Could we have a table every other week (Note: Waiting list for community tent but could have some type of presence outside the market)
 - Sell the personal benefit to the challenge
 - Small solar kit (toy)

- See if ACE could put together a memo for Condo associations

❖ **Select Board engagement**

- Ash spoke with a few Select Board members, including Brandi and Steve.
- Plan to meet with them in September to update on progress/recap of our initiatives to date including the GHG inventory; How we developed the plan; The key areas we need to address; how they can help/support
- Discussion around this included:
 - Don't do massive document like Natick
 - Get it in front of Select Board (get initial feedback) – potentially to follow with fall town meeting (but need to clarify goals)
 - Bring to other friends/committees of Sustainability Committee beforehand
 - We need to get a level of commitment from Board (be clear on what we want from them). Ask if they agree with our approach
 - Important to keep up level of activism of committee
 - Rob/Chuck to think about creating an actions slide (4 points or more) we want Select Board to take
 - Matt to help with slides

❖ **Frank N Update**

- Discussion of Comprehensive Climate Accounting Project – through grant with MAPC – for climate mitigation strategies
- MAPC funding was cut and only able to help with building out 2 strategies (along with Framingham)
- Below is timeline and activity:

Q1 (Jul – Sep 2021)

- Kick off workshop (MAPC/Municipalities)
- Prioritization of 3-4 strategies (Municipalities)
- Literature and data review (MAPC)

Q2 (Oct – Dec 2021)

- Straw proposals for 2 viable strategies (MAPC)
- Feedback on straw proposals (Municipalities)
- Begin development of 2 spreadsheet tools (MAPC)
- Collection of local, state, and national data (MAPC/Municipalities)

Q3 (Jan – Mar 2022)

- Complete initial development of 2 spreadsheet tools (MAPC)
- Feedback on preliminary spreadsheet tools (Municipalities)
- Quantify impacts using the tools for Ashland and Framingham (MAPC)

Q4 (Apr – Jun 2022)

- Create technical documentation (MAPC)
- Develop communications PowerPoints for Ashland and Framingham (MAPC)

❖ Social Justice

- On July 15th 2021, Ashland, Natick and Framingham were awarded a regional Mass Vulnerability Preparedness grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for a climate equity survey.
- The project title is "Building Relationships and Resilience with MetroWest Environmental Justice Neighborhoods".
- The project task will be the administration of a survey to environmental justice communities in Ashland and partner communities. The survey will gauge survey takers' responses on climate change impacts such as heat waves, flooding events, and open space/recreation space. The scope also includes a racial equity training geared for Committee members and town staff.
- The data from survey responses will then be used to help inform long term planning of future Town policies.
- September is the intended kickoff timeline

❖ Climate Bill - H.2167/S.1333

- Frank showed drafted letter to Massachusetts leaders regarding passage of 2167/1333 (to House Chair Representative Lori Ehrlich and Senate Chair John Cronin)
- The bill outlines the statewide target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- The letter notes Ashland's support of the bill - in order to realistically achieve outlined net zero target. Supporting the advancement of building electrification and to support local and statewide net zero targets is critical
- Committee approved sending letter

❖ Other Committee Items

- Building Better buildings benchmarking – Matt to send notes (summary of bill)

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm ET