



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHLAND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Time: 7:02pm ET

Location: Zoom Video Call

Present:

- Ashwin Ratanchandani - Chair
- Chuck Lidz – Vice Chair
- Terry Campbell – Clerk
- Cara Camerato-Hulme - Member
- Margy Gassel – Member
- Matt Marshquist – Member
- Samantha Riley – Sustainability Manager
- Florence Seidell – Resident
- Rob Moolenbeek – Resident

Citizen Participation

- Introduced Samantha as the new Sustainability Manager

Previous Minutes

- Approved July 26, 2022 minutes unanimously

Increase Scope of Multi-Year Action Plan beyond Planning

- Reviewed Excel list and added dates to topics without dates
- Matt to add column about area of control (within, with others, entirely others)

Checklist for Sustainable Projects

- Ash reviewed checklist draft
- Margy reviewed her draft

- Margy’s draft may be more of an explainer for the planning board with immediate issues to address
- Ash’s draft may be more of a checklist for developers for short term use prior to updates to bylaws
- The two documents should cover similar content and be delivered together
- Put drafts on google drive for committee review

Tree Bylaw

- Margy reviewed tree wardens in Natick and Arlington
- Tree warden is defined in home rule charter
- Margy received some community feedback that we should be prepared for resistance
- Margy recommends an approach similar to Arlington that require approval prior to building and not just adjusting the existing bylaws
- Cara reviewed Northampton approach and discussed an ease it in gently approach to introducing the bylaw
- Three approaches will be socialized:
 - Sommerville Green Score
 - Canopy Percentage
 - DBH (diameter at breast height) rules

New State Law

- Bill awaiting governor’s approval
- May be vetoed or pocket vetoed, but will be reintroduced in next session
- Chuck reviewed highlights of bill
- Chuck reviewed highlights of federal bill which is awaiting House and Presidential approval

Town Zero Emission

- Meeting with town manager scheduled for August 23, 2022

Action Review

Action List				
Action	Owner	Target Date	Next Update	Comment
Tree Bylaw	Margy	May 2023	August 23	

Explore existence and qualifications of tree wardens in surrounding towns	Margy	August 9	August 9	complete
Explore how Arlington implements their tree bylaw	Margy	August 9	August 9	complete
Review sustainability checklist	Ash, Margy	August 23	August 23	
Zero Emission Bylaw	Terry	May 2023	August 23	
Setup time with Town Manager to discuss tree bylaw	Ash	August 23	August 23	
Multi-year Action Plan	Matt	Ongoing	August 23	
Electricity Aggregation Plan	Samantha	Ongoing	August 23	
Volunteer Management	Terry	Ongoing	August 23	Care/feeding and tasks
Parade Participation	Florence	October 15	August 23	
Leah Estates Feedback	Rob, Cara	August 23	August 23	
Net Zero Homes Seminar/Induction Cooking in November	Cara, Chuck	November	August 23	

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be on August 23, 2022

List of Documents

- Net Zero Prioritization - Beyond Planning and Permitting.xlsx
- A checklist for evaluating sustainability projects.docx
- NetZero_Sustainability_Development_Recs_8-23-22_approved.docx

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm ET

