

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Minutes, November 22, 2021

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, John Solomon, Vice Chair, Jane Ward

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:

Dr. Paul Canniff, Clay Schofield

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Councilor Gordon Starr Town Council Liaison, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order:

Peter Doyle called the October 25, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:02 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of October 4, 2021, October 25, 2021 and November 8, 2021 minutes postponed

New Business

None

Old Business

Sustainability Position

The majority of Towns with a sustainability position feel that they save six to eight times their salary, not necessarily the first year because the first year their salary has to be paid while they get up to speed but by the time they bring in grants and create savings. That's usually by year three. Somerville and Natick are two towns that come to mind. There are a dozen towns in Massachusetts that either already have this position or are advertising to fill this position. This position has been recognized as valuable. There is a national organization of sustainability directors. Typically they come from either a business background or an engineering background. And they're common across industry as well as public entities, municipalities, cities and so forth. Important to look at position as a potential huge savings to the taxpayers both in energy savings and dollars spent.

Green Community,

Gordon Starr stated David Anthony and Margaret Song from Cape Light Compact appeared before the Airport Commission you can go on the town website, to view the meeting. The Airport Commission expressed enthusiasm and they accepted the municipal vehicle policy and the energy reduction plan.

David Anthony and Margaret Song are headed to the school commission in a couple of weeks and then they'll put it up before the Town Council.

Cape Air is going forward with their plans to buy electric airplanes.

Recycling Subcommittee,

Recycling subcommittee completed first draft of an informational flyer and a customer survey. One thing like to do is find some funding, to provide people with a starter kit for collecting food waste at home. The Transfer Station has some plastic totes. But it would really help with we can also give people some compostable bag liners it makes the process a whole lot cleaner. The Town received \$11,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to see if could use a \$200-\$300 out of that to purchase some bag liners. The idea is that we'd have some of our subcommittee members, go down to the Transfer Station and set up a table and encourage people to take a tote and some bags and coach them to start collecting their food waste. At the same time ask people to do a short survey.

The next step in the marketing plan would be to get permanent signage in the recycling area to remind people the importance of composting their food waste. Subcommittee wants to add something about food waste collection on the web page.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that they will be lowering their threshold. The organics ban to a half ton so that businesses will be prohibited from disposing and more than half ton of food waste into the general trash. So we're hoping that we can meet can have the town be involved in communicating this to businesses and suggesting to them that this is a role that they that they need to follow.

Town does have a climate emergency declaration adopted that does suggest that the town should take steps to respond to the emergency. And this is a step that can be taken with relatively low startup. This is one of the easier things that could be done. Don't know how much to promote residential curbside pickup could suggest to residents that this is available. Once we get more businesses with pickup it may be easier for a hauler to start residents as well. There are numerous ways that the Town communicates with the residents. Maybe could put a little slip in with the tax bill saying this is available and it would really help the environment by doing this. The economics works out better than the curbside pickup.

Peter Doyle asked everybody to send ideas "what I can do to save the world". Peter Doyle would like information to add to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee webpage in an effort to make it a useful tool for citizens. Members would also like to see food waste collection shed highlighted on the webpage to encourage use.

Adjourn

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved John Solomon to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 5:49 PM, 2nd by Rob Wilson; three members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: December 13, 2021 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: December 27, 2021

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, November 22, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes October 4, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes October 25, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes November 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski

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