

Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee of Great Barrington

Minutes of July 23, 2019

Location: Fire Station

Start: 5:50 End: 7:32

PRESENT:

Name			Name	
Devan Arnold	X		Natalie Narotzky	X
Jesse Carter	X		Jovanina Pagano	X
Benjamin Downing	O		Mark Phillips	X
Michael Feldstein	X		Aretha Whitehead	O
Ananda Hartzell	X		Kate Burke	O
Thomas C. Jordan	X			

X = present O = absent Ph = phone attendance

Note taker: Jovanina Pagano

ISSUE	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP NEXT DEADLINE
-------	--	-----------------------------------

<u>April meeting minutes approval</u>	Motion to approve by Michael , seconded by Devon	Approved
<u>Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP)</u>	<p>The town recently worked to update its hazard mitigation plan, with the intention to develop an action plan for possible future disasters. The state wants MA town to plan for climate change dangers as well. How might hazards change in the future as climate change hits us “full force?”</p> <p>It’s a planning process that engages with the full, diverse community to figure out what the real vulnerabilities are and what the top hazards and vulnerabilities are. Once the program is completed, the town can apply for action grants.</p> <p>Further information about the MVP program can be found on the associated documents.</p> <p>Question: what is a “hazard?” A: can be natural (forest fires, flooding, food-shortages, invasive, etc.) but can also be man-made disasters such as terrorist attacks.</p> <p>We can integrate mitigation with adaptation. Prevention <i>AND</i> coping</p> <p>When do we want to have this workshop?</p> <p>The committee will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gather stakeholders for the first meeting/workshop, which will likely be around 6 hours. Invite-only guarantees committed engagement. The 20-30 members should be drawn from diverse populations and that everyone’s voice is part of the process. The core group will also need to secure the location, get food for lunch. Grant will not pay for food, we might be able to use our budget money. - gather stakeholders for the public listening session. Could be at a Selectboard meeting, present what happened at the workshop and invite questions. <p>Most members of the workshop will be from GB, but we can also invite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - people from neighboring communities who are experienced or who would add to the process - government folks - private owners of properties that are in a vulnerable place <p>Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caroline and BRPC will facilitate the workshop and bring all materials necessary to do the work 	<p>Core team for this plan: Devon, Mark, Michael, Natalie, Jovanina</p> <p>Target : November 11, 2019</p> <p>Moving forward: 1.Chris and Caroline will be in touch with the core team about actual date and venue. They will also send an email to the whole committee to ask about ideas for people to be a part of the workshop (and maybe venues)</p> <p>Committee members are welcome to propose anyone else who will be dedicated to this process!</p>

	<p>Question: Would the core team need to be involved for the whole cycle?</p> <p>A: If people put in a good-faith effort, no.</p>	
Community Choice Aggregation	<p>Overview of the current contract. Selectboard has asked the committee to present a recommendation at the August SB meeting. Colonial will then provide the town with a lot of options that only the Town Manager and staff will see.</p> <p>Our goals: we know we want to exceed the current rate AND we want the option to be local green energy.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - below the grid rate - 100% renewable power - as much Class I RECs as possible (which supports more solar, as opposed to just wind) <p>RECs backward-subsidize existing projects.</p> <p>Hydro is more controversial because it has a larger impact on the local environment.</p> <p>Motion to recommend the above priorities made by Michael, Seconded by Jesse.</p> <p>Community outreach or additional recommendations to the SB:</p>	<p>Recommendation approved, Ananda and Natalie will present to the Selectboard on August 12.</p>

<p><u>Veronique Blanchard, Mass DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator</u></p>	<p>Veronique – she covers Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin counties. Nothing to do with enforcement. The liaison b/w the towns in western mass and the boston office. Focuses on solid waste and hazardous waste, composting. Basically to reduce trash and increase recycling. She also provides technical assistance, the town can apply for her time.</p> <p>4 solid waste districts – directors of those districts handle these issues. But she works with the areas that don’t have these directors. Helps make sure the towns are aware of and applying for these DEP grants. GB is not one of these districts.</p> <p>Municipal Recycling Coordinator Meetings – MRC meetings. Last one in June.</p> <p>Grants connected to: Sustainable Materials Recovery program. Funded by the waste energy credits on the incinerators. Funds a lot of projects re: solid waste.</p> <p>In order to qualify for the grants, we need to collect data first. Sean and V have met many times about this and he’s starting to work on this so we can apply for grants in 2020. (ask him!) Solid waste survey for 2018-2019 (ideally 2017 as well) need to be completed!</p> <p>2020 – grants opportunities will come out in April and due in June</p> <p>Grants –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pay as you throw initiatives – best way to get people to reduce their trash. There is some thinking about equitability · Assistance for schools · Transfer station equipment 	<p>Jovanina will reach out to Sean to see if he needs support from the committee at this point.</p>
--	---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Small scale initiatives – a reimbursement program, town spends and gets reimbursed (allowable amounts are dependent on the population) · Recycling dividends program (RDP) – don't have to spend every fiscal year, can save money to work towards a bigger project. Cash up front, many thousands of dollars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Educational purposes and outreach materials 	
<u>Ashlee Shaw, Town Intern</u>	<p>Working on installing a municipally-owned EV charging station (on municipal property). Really behind as far as providing this service for residents; this is a deterrent for possible employers, visitors, residents. It's also a way to generate revenue for the town.</p> <p>Coop is going to put 2 in, and the Holiday Inn as well.</p> <p>Systems benefits charge: Town pays a tax on utility bills, which can 90% off the installation costs for a EV charging station</p>	<p>Tom and Ananda will support Ashlee in this project.</p> <p>Tom will reach out to National Grid to provide contacts to Ashlee.</p>
IECC		Ananda and Jovanina will think about who should be on the roster and will present the recommendation at the next committee meeting
Town purchasing		Devon and Mark will bring this issue more fully to a future meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:32		

Minutes prepared by Jovanina Pagano