

Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee of Great Barrington

Minutes of March 29, 2019

Location: Town Hall

Start: 5:31

End: 7:00

PRESENT:

| Name | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Devan Arnold | X | | | | | |
| Jesse Carter | X | | | | | |
| Benjamin Downing | O | | | | | |
| Michael Feldstein | X | | | | | |
| Ananda Hartzell | X | | | | | |
| Thomas C. Jordan | X | | | | | |
| Natalie Narotzy | X | | | | | |
| Jovanina Pagano | X | | | | | |
| Mark Phillips | X | | | | | |

| Name | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Richard Ruth | X | | | | |
| Aretha Whitehead | O | | | | |
| Kate Burke | X | | | | |
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X = present O = absent Ph = phone attendance

Note taker: Jovanina Pagano

| ISSUE | DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS | ACTION/FOLLOW-UP NEXT DEADLINE |
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| Overview of open meeting law | | |
| Review of Committee Charter | Natalie covered some history of the formation of the committee and the breadth of the mission and how to look at possible project or proposals through the lens of the committee's mission to be accountable to it | |
| Introductions | People spoke briefly about why they applied for the committee and what kinds of projects or interests they have. | |
| Election of Chair and Vice-Chair/Clerk | Jovanina nominated Natalie Narotzky, seconded by Michael Feldstein. <i>Approved</i> Natalie Narotsky nominated Jovanina Pagano, seconded by Devan Arnold <i>Approved</i> | |
| Ideas of focus of committee members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green tech jobs, including high speed internet. Bringing work to people, instead of people going to work (Ananda) • Developing sustainability in a way that serves as a model for other areas. Test-bed, synergies and adaptation (Tom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MVP ○ Micro-grid • Invasive Species/tick born diseases, unintended consequences of climate change like the employment and revenue from the ski areas (Michael) • Purchasing power of the town. How is the town spending money and how could it be put towards local efforts? Putting our money back into the local economy (Mark) • Remediation of brown fields – dry cleaners and Cook's garage in Housatonic (Jesse) • Passive solar construction (Michael) • New construction – energy and affordability (Jovanina) | |
| Focuses for the committee that have already arisen | <p><i>Community visioning process to source the community for their definitions of "sustainability" & "livability" [Natalie, Jesse, Devan, Mark interested]</i></p> <p>- General agreement that the committee should do this on our own first, perhaps at the next meeting</p> <p><i>Transfer Station, recommendations for reducing waste and making access to the transfer station more equitable [Michael and Jesse interested]</i></p> <p><i>Green Communities opportunities - working with Sean Van Deusen, Director of the DPW, municipal buildings [Jovanina, Ananda interested]</i></p> <p>- Kate Burke informed the committee that the new Town Manager will likely</p> | <p>- A meeting with be set up with Chris Rembold regarding the MVP and the Planning Board</p> <p>- A meeting will be set up to talk with Sean Van Deusen about how he envisions liaising with the committee</p> |

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| | <p>determine what role we plan in relation to the DPW Director</p> <p><i>MMRHS</i>: 1) engaging students in the committee work; 2) renovation/re-build [Devan, Tom, Ananda, Mark interested]</p> <p><i>State policy initiatives and grants</i> [Tom, Ananda interested]</p> <p><i>Municipal Vulnerability Plan, working with Chris Rembold, Town Planner</i> [Michael, Devan, Natalie]</p> <p>- This centers on resilience in the face of climate change, involves a town-wide vulnerability assessment and a community process. Could tie into our community visioning process</p> <p><i>Planning Board</i> [Ananda, Michael, Jovanina interested]</p> <p>- the Planning Board is going to present a series of zoning changes with the intention of making more possible - tiny houses or other structures like ADUs, accessory dwelling units - structures that increase affordability and livability in Great Barrington. They announced at their March meeting that affordability was their planned focus in the next year.</p> | |
| Next Meeting/Regular meeting times | Will send out a Doodle Poll | |

Meeting notes prepared by Jovanina Pagano