

Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee of Great Barrington

Minutes of February 23, 2022

Location: Zoom meeting

Start: 5:35

End: 6:37

Name	
Natalie Narotzky	X
Jovanina Pagano	X
Mark Phillips	X
Aretha Whitehead	X
John Morrell	X

X = present O = absent

Note taker: Jovanina

ISSUE	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP NEXT DEADLINE
Last meeting minutes	Motion to approve – Mark . Seconded by Aretha. Unanimous approval for posting. Motion passed at 6:35.	

Compost update	<p>Marc met with Sean VD. Main question: is it possible to replicate Sheffield's compost project? Is it realistic and worth pursuing. Sean does think pursuing it makes sense.</p> <p>Town did not apply for the Community Compact Best Practices grant, but is willing to pursue this with the support and help of the committee. Marc would like help from another committee member to put together the grant application, with the intention of submitting something within the next month. Aretha is happy to help! As is John. Marc will organize the effort and reach out this weekend.</p> <p>Didn't talk about the possibility of a different location other than the transfer station.</p> <p>Regarding the sign for waste diversion at the transfer station, we just need to run it by him, but it's not as important as the grant at this point.</p> <p>Jovanina is interested in having the sign be something that is more of a community effort – youth, art, etc...A design contest for science/art collaboration at MMRHS?</p> <p>John mentioned that Pittsfield has a compost project happening, access to an actual composter for residents.</p>	
MVP project update	<p>Culvert project- spring work will happen in April.</p> <p>GB MVP project – contacts aren't signed yet, so more news to come...General food justice, food sovereignty and youth engagement. Multicultural BRIDGE will be continuing some of the work from Year 1, including a community celebration.</p>	Aretha will possibly bring Greenagers youth in to talk about their work possibly for the April meeting.
Grow Better Great Barrington	Core team continues to meet weekly – John, Jovanina, Chris R, Vivian O, Luke P - with the Conway Team. This Friday is the student presentation of the project recommendations to Conway professors and other professionals.	

	<p>Aretha met with the Conway team today and there was a lot of focus on community gardens. Aretha can't attend the next community forum, but will ensure that someone else from GA will be there.</p> <p>The Conway team was asking about the viability of the Fairgrounds as a possible space to explore and make recommendations around. Chris said yes and to reach out to the owners.</p> <p>Natalie mentioned the conversation that happened at the end of the first forum amongst farmers, who said that it's hard to talk about farming locally if it isn't possible to live here. Natalie wondered if the Conway team was taking this conversation into consideration. Vivian said that the Conway advisors recommended that they not cover this issue as its complexity is beyond the scope of their work, even though the issue of food access is directly related to affordability, work force issues, and transportation.</p> <p>The next community forum is: Thursday, March 2nd from 2:30-4:30</p>	
Affordability/Housing	<p>Natalie checked with Chris to see if the committee could do anything related to the short-term rental bylaw. He said that it has its own momentum now, so no.</p> <p>Is there a desire to have a conversation about housing or this bylaw from the intersectional lens we hold. Aretha is interested in having Jane Ralph (or another expert in this arena) come and talk to the committee about what the exact status is of housing, especially for folks who need it! Natalie wonders what Jane's perspective is about the possibility of</p> <p>Vivian is working on other issues related to affordable housing and would like to report out to the committee – perhaps in combination with Jane in April.</p>	<p>Aretha will reach out to Jane to see if they will come and speak with us, hopefully at our April meeting.</p> <p>Jovanina will reach out to Chris R to see if he has a contact at Berkshire Housing, also perhaps to attend the April meeting</p>
Open Society/Simon's Rock teach-in	<p>Global Teach in on March 30th – focusing on all aspects of the climate crisis. Natalie will be presenting about the SS&L work, supported by Jovanina. Natalie is an alum of the Bard grad program on sustainability, so wanted to do something for the program.</p>	

	Vivian wanted to know if there was anything about regenerative agriculture. John will put her in touch with Amanda from SR, who is one of the organizers.	
Scheduling	Next two meetings – Wednesday March 23rd at 5:30 Wednesday April 27 th at 5:30	
RSYP	Jovanina will be meeting with Z from RSYP to make a connection.	

Adjourned at 6:37

Submitted by Jovanina Pagano on April 29, 2022