

# Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee of Great Barrington

Minutes of December 16, 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Start: 5:48

End: 6:39

## PRESENT:

Name			Name	
Natalie Narotzky	X		Jovanina Pagano	X
Jesse Carter	X		Mark Phillips	X
			Aretha Whitehead	X

X = present on Zoom    O = absent    Ph = phone attendance

Note taker: Mark Phillips

Call to Order by Natalie at 5:48PM

**November Meeting Minutes Approval** - Pushed to January for review

**Compost Update** Provided by Mark and Aretha

- Aretha: We contacted a woman named Amy Donovan from Franklin County who has done a lot of work with the recycling dividends program; nonprofits can apply for RDP program to get points that support the town
  - Recycling Dividends Program: MASS DEP awards points to municipalities that participate in the program, our recommendation would ask that they apply for this.
- Natalie: Next step is to deliberate on the letter with a quorum in January after final edits with input from Peter and Sean Van Deusen
- Peter Stanton: Things that caught his attention has to do with Stanton Home building inspector; they are able to do what they are doing on their site because it is an educational program - otherwise, they are not zoned to do this. You have to have 5 contiguous acres to farm in GB; the largest contiguous zone at SH is 4 acres. SH does have a general permit from MassDEP to utilize food

waste from off site.

- Jovanina: Does the USDA Grant give SH project legitimacy? Peter: Yes, they have created a detailed plan for Stanton Home. Stanton Home is following consultant's recommendations. In January, we will be able to add the results from tests into our letter.

### **MVP Update**

- Natalie: Town was awarded an MVP Action Grant to perform equity-focused climate change preparedness work with Multicultural BRIDGE; there is a core volunteer team supporting this work. The first phase of the project is a series of cultural competence workshops, a 10 week series starting in January to include town staff and other stakeholders. It is an invitation only workshop series, GB SSL Committee Members can participate and are invited. Third module of the training is climate justice training run by Natalie and staff at BRIDGE.
- Jovanina: We want to really point out how unique this opportunity is and how important it is to be able to do trainings like this in our town;
- Natalie: This is not a process that all communities go through; MA is unique in that we have a supportive state administration
- Mark: It's easier to appreciate the MVP Project if you look at the other projects that were awarded, which are mostly infrastructure projects. Ours specifically focuses on the climate change dimensions.
- Aretha: I have participated in some of BRIDGE's training and they always do a great job of teaching
- John Morrell, Citizen: professor at Simon's Rock, focus is on climate change who teaches environmental literature, climate change, teaching a course this spring on climate fiction
- Aretha: Edward Cheng was a big part of the reason that we moved forward on this project
- Jovanina: Edward is on the meeting invite list - we will invite him! Jovanina will reach out to John @ [jmorrell@simons-rock.edu](mailto:jmorrell@simons-rock.edu)
- John: What else is included in the MVP Action Grant?
- Natalie: This is just the first phase, much more will be included.

### **AirBNB/Short-term rental Research**

- **Jovanina:** There has been an attempt by a joint committee formed by housing and (?), however this joint committee has not been effective for reasons that are unclear. Members of planning board are very interested in having GB SSL support livability in Town of GB; could be property taxes, etc., and will require time and research and then presenting this to the selectboard
- **Natalie:** Is anyone who might help with being able to support faith? (Jovanina volunteered Jesse); We should look for towns of a similar size that have implemented changes internally.
- Next steps: Let's revisit this in the new year to identify what next steps are helpful

### **Housekeeping**

- Next meeting, January 20th at 5:45PM
- Open Meeting Law: By Dec 30th we all have to sign document and complete COI training

**Citizen Speak:** Eileen Mooney, Peter Stanton, and John Morrell present

**Motion to adjourn by Mark**  
**Seconded by Aretha**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:39PM**

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Minutes submitted on 1/27/2021 by Jovanina Pagano