

Strategic Sustainability and Livability Committee of Great Barrington
Official Minutes of January 27, 2021
Location: Zoom meeting
Start: 5:51 **End:**

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: Jovanina Pagano

Call to Order by Natalie at 5:51PM

November and December Meeting Minutes Approval -

Motion to approve Nov minutes - Jesse, seconded by Aretha. No discussion, unanimous approval

Motion to approve Nov minutes - Jesse, seconded by Aretha. No discussion, unanimous approval

Compost Letter discussion and vote:

Good meeting with Sean VD and Veronique Blanchard last year. The detailed best steps are captured in the letter. Some specific administrative things that need to happen on the part of the Town that make the Town eligible. Also included in the letter. Sean VD expressed a need for support with staying on top of those applications and help with the prerequisites.

South County food waste diversion program. Transfer station project – hauler would provide totes at the transfer station. Might be unlikely that GB could be a part of this, given the transfer station limitations. Sean VD was fine with the recommendation to support

Stanton Home, not sure how that would play out. He recommended that the committee let the SB know in advance about the recommendation to support the composting efforts at Stanton, so members can recuse themselves if necessary.

Jesse – would the hauler be able to pick up from the farmer's market weekly?

Aretha – SMRP program would actually do this if we are part of the program.

Jovanina – Are these the

Mark – we need to set specific calendar markers so we can ensure that GB is providing the information when it's due. The front end info. Help with tracking and support.

So **how** can we help ensure this information gets pulled together and submitted?

Mark and Aretha will keep the conversation going with Sean to make sure the grant requirements are met. Perhaps putting together a timeline for accountability.

Motion to approve the letter:

- Mark made the motion and seconded by Aretha. Unanimously approved

Natalie/Jovanina will make sure to inform the SSL committee when the selectboard will be discussing and reviewing the letter. Stanton Home is still taking household compost.

Affordability and Livability

Jovanina provided a summary of the efforts and discussions in this area over the past months. Please reference previous minutes for more detail.

Aretha is interested in moving forward with this. Has daily conversations with families for whom this issue is central to their lives. Even folks who are able to rent still struggle to live. Some folks don't feel accepted as part of the community and aren't comfortable being part of the meetings in which these discussions/decisions are happening.

Jesse is also interested, though not sure how to support at this time.

Within an economic development package, recent housing policy decisions on the state level.

Georges – doesn't want to commit to anything at this point, given that GB Labs isn't active again until the summer. He'll follow up with Joe Grochmal

John Morrell – would like to be kept abreast.

???Are there communities that can serve as models or potentially partners in this area? Natalie – no community has solved this issue, but there are some tools that can be used to address this: taxes, regulations, zoning

To Do: Aretha, Jesse, John, Georges, Natalie, Jovanina to stay connected and move this forward. WE will all keep each other in the loop when we are attending other committees' or boards' meetings if the topic that draws us relates to SS&L work or mission.

Housekeeping: checking on future dates
February 24th and March 17th next meetings

Future meetings – folks reporting back about meetings they've attended to help increase members' awareness of what's happening on a town-wide level

Citizen Speak: Georges Pichard, Vivian Orlowski and John Morrell present

- John – teaching a climate fictions course at SR! Checking to see if students can attend the meetings. Also interested in the Sustainable Monument document and initiative.

Motion to adjourn by Aretha
Seconded by Jesse

Meeting Adjourned at 6:46 PM

Official minutes submitted by Jovanina Pagano on 2/25/2021