

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:00pm, via Zoom

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Karen Gent, Anne O'Brien, Leon Correy, Wendy Drumm, and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Not Present: Lois Callahan, Susan Spooner, James Anderson, Deirdre Healy

Guests Present: Christin Ritz, Gary Lavalette

MINUTES

Ms. O'Brien motioned to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Correy seconded. Vote was unanimous (5-0). Ms. O'Brien motioned to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting, Mr. Correy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0).

COMMUNITY ELECTRIC AGGREGATION- UPDATE

Ms. Richards states that the topic came up on the previous evening's Selectman's meeting but it was not on the agenda to be voted on. It will be brought up again on the Sept 8th meeting. Ms. McClees clarifies the vote would be for Fairhaven to tell Good Energy "yes" we want to opt in for 10% more renewables or "no" we want to stay at the state mandated level of renewables and then residents can opt in for higher levels. Ms. Drumm is interested in the time table. Ms. McClees answers the new contract will begin in January at that point residents can opt in, opt up, or opt out.

PLASTIC FREE JULY ECOCHALLENGE

There were not as many participants this round, guessing more people spending more time outside. Engagement doesn't reflect choices people are making, still decent participation given the good weather. Next challenge will be coming up in October.

GREEN TIPS COLUMN

Susan, who is not present, has an idea and will be working on that, ideas should be sent to Ms. Richard by e-mail to be included in the Neighborhood News.

2040 MASTER PLAN

This agenda item is being skipped over, as it should have been removed from agenda.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

No new updates waiting to hear back on grants hopefully in next couple weeks. More to update in the Sept meeting. Working with Solect Energy, who is doing projects on the elementary schools, on another potential solar project. One if not both will be online by the fall, there were delays due to Covid.

ANTI-RACIST ANTI-BIAS SUBCOMMITTEE

Whitney compiled all comments in one document regarding Diedre Healy's letter which was shared to committee members.

Ms. Healy's suggestion to the Town is to start a separate committee, possibly be a 7 member committee appointed by the board of selectmen in charge of advising the board of selectmen to increase inclusivity and expand on demographics with respect to committee recruitments and appointments. Instead of word smithing all the comments and letters which could take hours Ms. Richard suggests since the original thought was to have a sub-committee of the sustainability committee it might be easier to have a few people edit the letter and bring back a final version to the group if we decide to write a letter in general or a letter in support of creating a committee the Selectmen would appoint or both. Ms. Richards asks the committee for their thoughts on steps moving forward and thinks it's a positive idea and discussion that needs to happen more.

Ms. Drumm believes its important the committee finds out what systematic issues currently exist in Fairhaven, this audit would address income disparity and other issues where we can see inequality. It would take a subcommittee to conduct this audit.

Ms. Gent agrees a subcommittee spearheaded from the sustainability is a good start to generate a letter of support.

Ms. O'Brien had been thinking of a diversity, equity and inclusion committee that is important to give guidance to HR in recruitment efforts to include more voices and include representation. She agrees with Wendy regarding an audit. In her capacity of HR working with the police department she would recuse herself from this letter but provides her full support for this committee.

Mr. Correy is in support of a subcommittee to move forward quickly as a person who has a personal experience within the Town. Awareness needs to be brought within the Town and his full support is given.

Diedre could not make it but Ms. Richard suggests her as chair and encourages anyone interested as subcommittee, at most 3 people to start with, contact Diedre. This needs to be worked on ASAP and the meeting rules will be double checked on.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Bills

Fairhaven Neighborhood News - \$340.00 for the Electricity Aggregation Survey already approved out of revolver account, bill just needs to be signed through docusign.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: August 18 listed on agenda; it should be September 15th.

Ms. Richard did get a quote on bags to be printed by an at-risk youth group run through the state's correction office, Ms. Richard will share info in email to be on next meeting.

Ms. McClees has a Letter of interest to Selectmen to fill in as alternate member, Christin Ritz which will be voted on at the next Selectman's meeting.

Jim Anderson joined at 6:37pm

ADJORNMENT

Ms. Drumm motions to adjourn. Vote was unanimous. (5-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Gent