

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:30pm, via Zoom

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Wendy Drumm, Susan Spooner, Deirdre Healy, Karen Gent, Anne O'Brien and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Alternates Present: Christin Ritz and Jim Anderson

MINUTES

Deidre Healy motioned to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting and seconded by Susan Spooner. Vote was made by roll call (4-1), Anne O'Brien abstained as she was not present.

OCTOBER ECOCHALLENGE

The EcoChallenge will be wrapped up tomorrow there one day left in challenge. Next one will likely be in April during Earth Month.

DEI LETTER TO SELECTBOARD- update from sub-committee

Ms. Healy updates that a letter was drafted to request a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee be formed that would advise select board and other departments and asks that the people who signed the letter be appointed to the Committee. Ann Richard will send a follow up letter from the Sustainability Committee in support.

HALLOWEEN VIRTUAL EVENT

Fairhaven TV is doing their annual Halloween event virtually this year and the Sustainability Committee was asked to participate so we made a donation of fair trade candy and reusable bags. It will be held Thursday October 29th at 6pm information can be found on the Fairhaven website. Ms. O'Brien commends the quality of work the cable department has done on the event. Saturday photos can be taken at the Rec center.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Town meeting funded the match for acquiring the 2 electric vehicles and car charging stations. One station will be for public use and one for municipal vehicles only. MVP Planning grant still working on finishing in the next month or 2 to be ready for spring. 2 solar projects at elementary schools are under inspections and will be turned on soon. Other buildings will be looked at as potential solar sites. The Town received a joint grant with New Bedford Port Authority and the City of New Bedford for \$154,178 to do a comprehensive assessment of municipal infrastructure and the land-sea connection. New Bedford Fairhaven Harbor and adjacent roadways will be evaluated. Ms. McClees explained more about what has been done in terms of siting different municipal buildings with solar out of previous grant money with Select Energy and the possibility of doing a parking lot canopy system at the rec center. Ms. Ritz

asked about the harbor assessment cost and what the grant will cover. The grant covers the majority but staff time was expended and New Bedford was able to provide a cash match through other funding to make up the difference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Request by Planning Director Paul Foley, as they received a grant for Complete Streets they are looking for a representative from our committee. The grant looks at making streets user friendly for different kinds of uses- biking, walking, etc. Mr. Anderson noted that this also came up on the Bikeway Committee and they are focusing on the bike path for this year. Let Ms. Richard or Ms. McClees know by next week if you are able to work on this as a representative. Ms. Spooner asked if we can work with SRTA for bus shelters for public transportation and Ms. Richard thought that was something that fits in the category of Complete Streets and is something the Committee should ask Paul about.

Reminder if you want something on the agenda let Ms. McClees or Ms. Richard know by Wednesday the week before the meeting. Encourage members to look through Master Plan to pick up items for sustainability initiatives. Mr. Anderson asks if voting on the new artificial turf grass at the high school was presented to the committee and it was not.

Next meeting: November 17, 2020

ADJORNMENT

Ms. Spooner motions to adjourn and is seconded by Ms. Healy. Vote was unanimous by hand raise. (5-0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Gent