

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 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, Susan Spooner, Deirdre Healy, Karen Gent, Leon Correy, Wendy Drumm, Jim Anderson and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Alternates Present: Kathryne Moniz and Christin Ritz

Absent: Lois Callahan, Anne O'Brien

Guests: Eliana DaCunha

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Deirdre Healy read a formal Land Acknowledgement meant to show respect to the original inhabitants of the land where we reside and the committee plans to read at the start of every meeting.

"The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the land, and the enduring relation-ship that exists between them and their traditional territories. The land on which we sit is the traditional unceded territory of the Wampanoag Nation. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced occupation of their territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse indigenous people connected to this land on which we gather from time immemorial."

There are maps at native-land.ca that show the original inhabitants of the land across the world in terms of different territories and indigenous groups.

MINUTES

Jim Anderson is now a voting member. Since Anne O'Brien was Vice Chair, we need to fill that position. Deirdre nominates Leon Correy as Vice Chair and seconded by Jim. Vote was unanimous by roll call (7-0). Approval for minutes of December 15, 2020 motioned by Wendy Drumm, seconded by Jim, unanimous by roll call (7-0). Motion to approve the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes is made by Leon, seconded by Wendy, unanimous by roll call (7-0).

BEACH PERMITS AND BICYCLE ACCESS

An e-mail was received from Selectman Bob Espindola about this issue and requested by Leon for this to be on the agenda. There was a Board of Public Works meeting where this was discussed. Leon comments if you are a resident you should be able to have beach access if you decide to ride a bicycle there. Jim wrote a letter in support of Bob Espindola's motion. As a group we should write a letter of support, and come up with some sort of solution like showing proof of residency to allow bike access to the public beach. At the meeting it wasn't resolved but all agreed there should be bike racks at a future meeting this will be addressed further. Overall positive about people bringing bikes. Ann will draft a letter of support from the Committee. Susan wonders if there was any discussion on what a backup plan would be if they

don't have proof of residency. Whitney McClees assumes it would be handled the same way if a car shows up without a pass but this will all be discussed. When Jim spoke with Bob his concern was the fee structure of bicycles vs cars.

2021 TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Whitney shared those documents as discussed in the last meeting. Whitney put in 3 placeholders 1. plastic pollution reduction bylaw, 2. polystyrene reduction bylaw, 3. authorization from the state to allow Fairhaven to establish a fee for checkout bags. We will have to submit the language before the Town Meeting and we will have a google doc to share comments because of the length of the articles. Wendy has done a lot of prior research with the plastic straws/cups and can help with that and would like to see how other towns have dealt with this. Any new bylaws need to be submitted to the Attorney General's office for approval, it's unusual for anything of this sort to be rejected. If we did have a Town charter the first 2 items could be approved but since we don't, they'd have to go to the Attorney General, item 3 would either way. Eliana can reach out to find out how other towns have had these passed. Alex who was the main proponent for Sudbury has a list of positive arguments that can be shared. Legal counsel in the town has to approve first for the wording and there would need to be public education. With Covid there is a lot of takeout using containers and we need to keep in mind businesses and their cost. Jim asks if its customary to offer what substitutes there are that could work within the bylaws for businesses to use instead. Ann says it wouldn't be part of the bylaw language but would-be part of the education piece on alternatives. Eliana will research what type of replacement items could be used. For example, her school uses compostable containers but doesn't do compost. Christin notes a lot of the compostable containers won't compost or biodegrade they don't actually breakdown in a landfill and need to be in a specific industrial compost system with high heat and can take more resources and actually be more detrimental. Ann wraps up with stating the google doc is where we can all write our comments.

MARINE DEBRIS- WATERGOAT, other ideas

Tim Cox spoke at the Marine Resources meeting and it was discussed and also was an article in the Standard Times. Susan updates that Tim hasn't had time to measure the area discussed at the last meeting which is needed to get a price. Jim participated in a cleanup on Palmer Island which is directly on the other side of the identified area in New Bedford where there was a tremendous amount of garbage and debris. Susan says we need to figure out the cost, location and ways to fund and will update again next month.

2040 MASTER PLAN

Whitney sent out a webinar for LEED cities and communities. Kathryn had trouble trying to log into the webinar- there could be a recording we can track down. Deirdre brings up an item in the Master Plan 3.3-5 establish neighborhood networks and communicate effectively in emergencies is a goal worth working on. Whitney thinks we could collaborate with emergency management, Rave Alerts on this.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Whitney updates we submitted the green communities annual report back in November and has been officially approved by DOER and Friday submitted the final report for the designation grant which resulted in LED lighting, smart controls and energy management upgrades. This should set us up to submit in the spring round competitive grant for green communities. Been in contact with Energy Source moving forward, still discussing types of projects such as LED lighting in High School, continuing energy management upgrade at HS and Middle School. Should be finishing up MVP grant in the next month or two, 3 tasks were funded. Should be getting draft of that final deliverable to set us up for an action grant. Spoke to the regional coordinator about ways to improve last year's grant application. The EcoChallenge is coming up again in April the 1st -30th registration opens up in March, we should be promoting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Next meeting is March 16th, 2021. Ann is still working on the Seeds for Seniors and we received a donation from a viewer of our meeting. Start small this year and see how it goes. It will be on agenda for next meeting. Climate Reality Group is working on a virtual Earth Day celebration that will be an art festival on April 8th. "Art meets science" to reflect a sustainable future with their creativities. Video or take a photo to submit and will be on a map to view then a summit to close the event with prizes. Something to look forward to and participate in.

Susan asks if we've had any contact with ABC regarding the towns recycling. It's no longer under board of health but under public works. Health dept would still be responsible for education and outreach.

Christin regarding EcoChallenge- there wasn't great turnout we had previously talked about having different teams, do we create teams to get more residents involved. We could contact the schools and neighborhood news. Whitney offers to help Christin on this.

Jim received a note about Complete Streets and now we're in phase 2 there will be a call for lighting on various streets- this could be factored into other initiatives we are involved in. Jim will share list with Whitney and distribute to group.

ADJORNMENT

Leon motions to adjourn and is seconded by Susan. Vote was unanimous by hand raise (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Gent