

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 18, 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, Karen Gent, Leon Correy, Wendy Drumm, Diedre Healy and Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

Guests: Stephanie Trott

CHAIR PERSON'S WELCOME AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION ready by Whitney McClees

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT read by Diedre Healy. Ann Richard donated a library book from the committee to the library about the Wampanoag.

MINUTES

Minutes from the previous meeting on 3-16-21 will be circulated for the next meeting. The April meeting was canceled due to Earth Day events.

2021 TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Ann reports 3 Selectmen approved the request to petition the state to allow for a \$.10 plastic bag charge without too much discussion. Good to make sure someone is prepared to speak on it for future meetings. Whitney received an inquiry from a high school student about reducing plastic use and more info about the petition, she will reach back out to them so see if they'd like to attend the next meeting. No response from Fred Jones about citizen petition on the plastic bag ban. It would be good to have Eliana DeCunha to speak as a college student/resident at the next town meeting. June 5th at Fort Phoenix cleanup focus on plastic.

EARTH MONTH ECO CHALLENGE

Christin Ritz sent a thank you and there will also be a press release in the Neighborhood News with team results. Diedre recaps the virtual events with the earth day. Last event was a video from Senator Marckey.

DEI COMMITTEE

Diedre, because we've had no movement with the town since they are backed up with other issues, we could try to move forward as a sub committee of the Sustainability Committee. Start out with initiatives to recognize June as gay pride month as well as the holiday Juneteenth and acknowledge of raising the jubilee flag. We could have a small reception with a story hour. Officially, you need 60 days for prior notification, as a committee can we petition for these motions. The pride flag has been raised twice before. Follow up with a letter. Library has a flag pole, perhaps it could be raised there. Letter to select board for these initiatives. Diedre motions to make a request for this sub-committee and write the letter, Leon seconds, passes unanimously (5-0).

COMPLETE STREETS

Whitney, knows they are moving forward with prioritizing projects, Jim Anderson is not in attendance to update further.

SEED EXCHANGE/SEEDS FOR SENIORS

Ann updates there were 2 press releases. Donated 52 greenhouses with seeds, within 10 days they were taken, and had to pull the press releases because it was so popular. Only cost \$30 and there will be a reimbursement bill coming in the next meeting.

COMPOST BINS

Ann reached out to the company who supplies them, the cost is \$65. We could post about it at the Huttleston Marketplace.

2040 MASTER PLAN

No input this month. We should always be following for the future of our town.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATORS REPORT

Whitney updates we are at the end of the MVP planning grants, tasks completed, working on pulling together last information. Submitted green communities grant to do additional projects at the high school, still waiting to hear on that. Solar at elementary schools is interconnected and are generating electricity. Still in the process of exploring the middle school and canopy of the senior center for solar. EV grants and charging stations are moving forward. Received correspondence about a cultural funded project for Fairhaven Community Writers Project put on by Stephanie Trott. More info and registration on their Facebook page. <http://bit.ly/fcwp/2021>
Ann praises the amount of work Whitney does as a one-person department and what she's been able to accomplish with all the grants and getting the town money.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Next meeting is June 15th, 2021. State of emergency to end June 15th, unsure if we will be able to continue to hold virtual meetings so this date might need to change.

ADJOURNMENT

Leon motions to adjourn and is seconded by Wendy. Vote was unanimous by hand raise (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Gent