

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:34pm, via Zoom  
Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Karen Gent, Wendy Drumm, Deirdre Healy and  
Sustainability Coordinator Whitney McClees.

**CHAIR PERSON'S WELCOME AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION** by Ann Richard. State legislature extended remote meetings through April 1, 2022.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** read by Deirdre Healy.

Whitney is on the board of the MA Association of Conservation Commissions and spoke with an off board committee member of their DEI group who is a member of the Herring Pond Wampanoag. Her recommendation on land acknowledgements is not refer to any specific tribe or designated group because there are potential geopolitical differences between different groups so it's best to keep it general. Deirdre says her feedback was reverse, people wanted more specific names mentioned. Deirdre will do some outreach to get more opinions and will be discussed more next meeting.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes by Wendy Drumm seconded by Deirdre Healy for March 16th, 2021 meeting (4-0).

Motion to approve minutes by Wendy Drumm seconded by Deirdre Healy for May 18, 2021 meeting (4-0).

**COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

Moved to next meeting's agenda in July. Jim Anderson and Susan Spooner have resigned. With those resignations we have 1 voting vacancy and 3 alternate vacancies.

**REMOTE MEETINGS**

All in favor of continuing to keep meetings remote.

**DEI COMMITTEE**

Deirdre- outdoor story time at the library tomorrow at 11:00am. The event is listed on the town website. We donated a Juneteenth flag to the library.

**2040 MASTER PLAN**

We will have a discussion in July about pesticide use in the parks. Look into that section of the Master Plan to prepare and approach different town departments. MVP Grants submitted. On the Fairhaven Conservation and Sustainability web page there is an MVP Program section that has general info, webinar and report.

**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**

With vacancies it's important we try to recruit more members. Eliana was successful at Town Meeting in getting the articles passed, we'll ask if she is interested in becoming at least an alternate. Whitney had a high school student reach out about the Town Meeting articles so she will reach out to see if they'd like to get involved. A recent beach cleanup had many young people from Fairhaven and surrounding areas, that is encouraging and could be a way to get more members. Tomorrow night there is an online event, "No Time to Waste: Toxic Plastic and the Climate Crisis"

### **SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATORS REPORT**

Whitney updates we are winding down on the fiscal year, community garden is going strong. MVP grants have been submitted and we are soon to be an "official" designated green community. Incentives for utility projects were approved and waiting on grants to be approved for building an energy management system. Action grants focus on schools- when you look at energy use, the schools have the highest use among all buildings. Trying to reduce energy consumption. The EV grant is moving forward. Eversource is  $\frac{3}{4}$  way through with installing the connection for the EV charging stations hoping for another extension because of computer chip shortage so vehicle pricing has gone up and acquisition is delayed. Waiting to hear back on that. Hoping they are in by the end of the summer, 1 of the 2 stations will be open for the public.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Administrative assistant for Whitney. Ann brought up at town meeting the need for an administrative assistant for Whitney, it did not pass but positive support, hopefully will pass next year.

Deirdre- During the selectmen's meeting yesterday, Bob Espindola asked her if we had any ideas about how to resolve the problem with trash accumulating. Are there any examples of what other municipalities have done? Whitney answers that there is a town in Oregon that has someone on land monitoring the bay and watching every vessel and if they saw any littering there would be a \$10,000 fine. The amount of trash decreased substantially. Other towns have been installing mesh bags on storm water drains to collect trash. A lot of the problem is at the manufacturer process and amount of single use items. Prevention and fundamentally changing manufacturing would be the key.

Bills for community garden- requested purchased supplies to refurbish boards on beds, \$260, and that would come out of the gift account. Ann motions to approve the \$260 and seconded by Wendy (4-0). Second reimbursement request is from Ann for seeds for seniors, \$130 spent but \$100 was covered by a donation so only \$30 from the revolver account is requested. Wendy motions to approve reimbursement of \$30 from the revolver to Ann and is seconded by Karen (4-0). Whitney will e-mail a docusign for signature.

Next meeting is July 20th, 2021 remotely.

Wendy offers to personally sponsor Seeds for Seniors next year. We will have this on the agenda for next February. It was a very successful program this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Deirdre motions to adjourn and is seconded by Karen. Vote was unanimous by hand raise (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Gent