



Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043
TELEPHONE (860) 649-8066 FAX (860) 643-0021

SUSTAINABLE CT COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020 7:00 P.M. - VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The June 24, 2020 Sustainable CT Committee meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Sandra Pierog; Planning & Zoning Commission Representative Arlene Fiano; Energy Committee Representative Richard Dziadul; At-Large Members Stanley Staron, Alyssa McDonnell, and Jennifer Cyr; Director of Community Development Patrice Carson; and Administrator Joshua Steele Kelly.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sustainability Intern Alexa Loda and Sustainable CT Fellow Kelly-Anne Moffa.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Approval of the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION: Carson asked a question about an item she was cited on. McDonnell stated that the minutes sent out appear to be April minutes with a May heading. Kelly noted that the minutes also were not able to open on the website.

CONSENSUS was reached to table the minutes until the next meeting to allow Kelly time to resolve the issue.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Consideration of and possible action on items to be completed by the Town for Sustainable CT certification points.

DISCUSSION: Carson started off by introducing Kelly-Anne Moffa as the Sustainable CT Fellow that has been assigned to serve the general region encompassing Bolton. It was asked of Carson if Sustainable CT had given her feedback on April item submissions, to which she said yes: all items submitted were accepted with the exception of the item that pertains to the Board of Selectmen establishing a poet laureate, as that action has not yet been taken by the Board. Carson went on to state that completing an item under Section 5 would be difficult. Fiano reminded the group that there are active members of the community who sometimes run free courses on various facets of bicycling, and it was asked if that action may suffice for an item under Section 5, which generally deals with transportation. Fiano also noted that Steele's Crossing Road is currently being paved, and it was asked if a repainting of the lines on that

street may count for points under the Complete Streets category of 5.1. Kelly shared an email from Highway Director Lance Dimock on that subject, which had been sent earlier in the day. Conversation on Steele's Crossing continued, and Dziadul brought up the fact that bicycles and similar vehicles are currently blocked from entering certain areas on the Hop River Trail due to the placement of stones. Pierog explained that the space he is referring to is not strictly under the purview of the Town of Bolton.

Moffa and Carson spoke to a question regarding the Equity Toolkit under Sustainable CT's purview. Carson stated that she would be attending a webinar this coming Friday on this subject and others. Pierog suggested that staff members at the Senior Center be invited as well.

Fiano stated that she attended the Black Lives Matter event on the Town Green the prior weekend and noted that there were a lot of new faces from around Bolton that showed up. She suggested that Tom Manning, who also attended, may be able to generate the names of other individuals who attended.

Carson noted that Loda has been working on Section 7.8, which focuses on diverting food scraps from the solid waste stream. It was explained that a survey has been launched on the town website and on social media accounts that asks residents to give a little information about the kind of composting they currently do and the kind of composting they may be interested in pursuing in the future. Fiano mentioned community composting as an option and further recommended that there be an educational component to this action where residents who do compost could post pictures or videos online to help others learn. McDonnell suggested that action and education should go hand-in-hand. Discussion occurred around the fact that the Conservation Commission has sold composters in the past. Loda explained more about the other educational social media posts she plans to make.

Dziadul was asked to give a report on the energy benchmark, to which he stated that he is currently working to audit the information he already has so that he can ask Kelly for the information he does not have. He went on to discuss the EnergyStar Portfolio Manager and spoke favorably of its capabilities. Carson suggested that the Town may already have an Eversource portfolio account, which would make the process a lot easier. Dziadul said that he would be happy to file for one if one does not already exist.

Carson noted that she was waiting for a couple things from Kelly, including more information about the community survey. She went on to ask that the group, to some extent, meet more regularly than it has been. It was noted that the .

Staron stated that information about Section 1.5 was emailed out to a group of Committee members, and also that the other item he had been working on related to Sustainable Purchasing Policies was still in committee. Kelly agreed to work with Staron on furthering the Sustainable Purchasing Policies.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of hosting a town-wide forum on diversity and inclusion.

DISCUSSION: Pierog started off the conversation by acknowledging the Black Lives Matter event that took place over the prior weekend. She then went on to ask if this committee would be interested in spearheading further conversation on the subjects discussed at the BLM event. Carson and Fiano generally agreed that it would be a good idea to further the discussion, with Carson noted that it was the perfect conversation to have with an equity coach. McDonnell suggested that it not be held in-person, but rather that break-out rooms be utilized on Zoom. Fiano noted that she is hopeful that more residents who attended that meeting will begin attending town meetings and get involved in general. Pierog asked if anyone knew whether

Facebook Live could be used to host a small panel discussion on the subject, and Kelly threw out an idea of how to utilize Zoom to make the event happen. McDonnell added that she hoped this was more than a one-time event. Cyr suggested that Zoom may be better, as a back-and-forth dialogue would be more dynamic than an outward-facing Facebook Live event. Pierog noted that it may be difficult to hold this kind of conversation over Zoom, as it may be Zoom bombed. Fiano suggested that questions could be sent in ahead of time or via email. Conversation continued about different options for how such a discussion could be effectively managed. Fiano added that she believes holding such an event would be better done sooner rather than later given that there is an energy in the community to further the conversation. Carson stated that she would work to get an equity coach to come speak to the Committee about how this could be effectively held and implemented.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Set the next meeting date.

DISCUSSION: Pierog concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their hard work and setting the next meeting date for Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Joshua Steele Kelly, Administrator

See minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.