

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Minutes, August 9, 2021

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, Clay Schofield, John Solomon, Jane Ward

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:

Dr. Paul Canniff, Rob Wilson

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Cynthia Cole, Citizen, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order:

Peter Doyle called the August 9, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:05 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Postponed

New business

Peter Doyle met with Cape Cod Challenger Club, an organization that develops activities for kids after school. They have an activity where they collect food waste from the high school and they make fertilizer. They get food, they put in essentially clothes dryer to dry it out, and once it is dry they grind it up and package it for sale as all-purpose fertilizer. This fits in as part of our educational effort to have people rethink about food waste as a resource. If products can be minimally processed like it sounds like they're doing, and reused and or sold we are not only saving money by not having to ship it off, we're avoiding climate change and that's the kind of thing that friends at the Sturgis West Campus thought, students would be really interested in to rethink about a lot of our waste as resources, Circular Economy kind of thing. Members wonder if there is an interest in growing. Maybe IEC members can help in getting more schools on board.

Old Business

Peter Doyle discusses the climate change, sustainability, position, letter to the Town Council. Jane Ward and her husband cleaned it up quite a bit. There are a couple things that could change. Second paragraph starts "councilors wisely voted to recognize and confront climate emergency". Possibly change to the council voted and passed the climate, emergency declaration. Leave the sentence driven by human energy consumption and land use practices all the rest of it looks good.

Peter Doyle comments that in parallel with initial rough draft he also contacted two people that he thought might have more information or opinions on a sustainability manager or climate change coordinator, Peter Doyle spoke with Jim Wolf of Cape Air and Judith Holt from Sandwich. Judith Holt mentioned to Peter that Martha's Vineyard and Orleans already have such a position which is important to know for comparison by the either the Council or the Town. Some very good points made in a two or three paragraph email saying absolutely it's necessary Jim Wolf thinks that he's probably saved his company, four to six times his salary, since he's been there. Jim Wolf also said the really important thing

is if you want to declare a climate emergency and somehow, all of a sudden add this sustainability overlay or perspective to everything you do; people are already busy full time doing their current jobs adding this extra need to be sustainable is going to be very hard. You really do need a culture change the leader has to be embracing this but you have to have somebody whose job it is to bring this concept across the enterprise.

The letter goes on to say that the sustainability is complicated. Not sure that letter should be flipping between climate change and sustainability. It is suggested to change this to say climate change is complicated and having a designated individual, as opposed to sustainability. Don't think letter should emphasize how complicated it is. Letter goes on to say, having a designated individual with the required expertise could ensure important tasks or priorities are getting addressed. It is suggested change *could* to *would* ensure. Goes on for example, the Town has established media outlets to educate residents about climate change, not sure that the town is doing it right now, so maybe just leave it out those last two sentences. Add sentence "The climate change coordinator could direct and craft public education." Finally, Sustainability Coordinator, which going to change to climate change, will save money for the Town an example of Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator Town of Natick stated her work saves 12 times her salary.

Back in the second paragraph, the last sentence of the second paragraph. These important advances are clearly not enough. Thought we could say, these are important advances, comma, but we need to do more.

Peter Doyle will incorporate suggested changes and send it out to all members for final review and edit.

Recycling Subcommittee

John Solomon explains there are some tools that will help estimate the amount of food waste typically generated by a business based on its size and the type of business for example a restaurant that serves a certain number of meals per week can estimate based on that. John Solomon has access to a list of businesses and institutions. It is thought that may be able to get some rough numbers on what's involved and that's certainly something IEC will want to do. Businesses that generate more than a half ton a week will need to separate out food waste.

It is thought that the Transfer Station takes 32 tons a year of food waste. That is the people who bring food waste to the landfill, as opposed to people who put it in the back yard. Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members would like some sort of cheat sheet with all the Transfer Station collection data. So they can refer to until they eventually learn it.

At this point, unless anybody has any further input, I'm thinking that we're just sort of gathering numbers. How do we normalize goals for recycling? Eliminate Yuck, make it convenient and promote awareness.

Who will be working on this specifically right now it's been pretty much John Solomon, Jane Ward and Cynthia Cole. Members discuss need to divvy up work and decide who's going to do what tasks. John Solomon would like to hear from Dan Santos and PJ Kelliher to find out they feel about these efforts and make sure will not be stepping on toes or duplicating efforts.

Recycling subcommittee members spoke with PJ Kelliher about signs at the Transfer Station and revisions to the flyers or leaflets that they handout. PJ was receptive. The other key thing in the action plan is media; want to see what can get published in local media. Members discussed actually being on site at Transfer Station to talk to people about recycling. Possibly do a little survey and talk to people about composting. The majority of people who go to the Transfer Station also recycle. Most of them are not going to the food waste shed.

Green Community

Gordon Starr absent IEC will pick up effort in the fall.

Peter Doyle introduces new member, Clay Schofield. Clay if you can tell we're focused on compost, and we're focused on the Town becoming a Green Community. We're the Infrastructure and Energy Committee. And as you know infrastructure, sewers, waters docks, draining. As a committee we decided we're going to focus on recycling and Green Community status. So that's where we are just kind of bringing up to speed you can look back over all the minutes up there on the website, they'll give you an idea of how we rambled around for quite a while until we landed on these efforts. Hopefully we'll have some impact in the future.

Clay Schofield tells members his interest is infrastructure and he would like to advocate for infrastructure improvements and possibly capture some of President Biden's infrastructure money.

Adjourn

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved John Solomon to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:06 PM, 2nd by Jane Ward; four members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: September 27, 2021 5:00PM | Department of Public Works | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: October 4, 2021, October 25, 2021, November 8, 2021, November 22, 2021

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, August 9, 2021 14, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes July 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski