

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Minutes, April 25, 2022

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair; Kathryn Hautanen, John Solomon

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:

Jane Ward, Vice Chair, Dr. Paul Canniff, Rob Wilson, Clay Schofield

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant,

Call to Order:

Peter Doyle, Chair called the April 25, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:10 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of March 28, 2022 and April 11, 2022 minutes postponed to next meeting.

New Business

Peter Doyle informs members Sara Wigginton, Ph.D. MASSTC Project Assistant will be the guest speaker at the May 9, 2022 meeting. Sara will give Infrastructure and Energy Committee members a presentation on biochar.

Peter Doyle will develop an action list and assign to members at the next Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting.

Peter Doyle notes the need to vote on whether Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meetings should be recorded and posted to web page for citizens to view. Peter Doyle will discuss at the next Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting.

Old Business

Chatham's Net Zero ordinance and State of Massachusetts net zero Kathryn Hautanen, No Updates.

Recycling subcommittee John Solomon Peter Doyle tells Infrastructure and Energy Committee members there is a meeting scheduled with Daniel W. Santos Thursday, April 28, 2022. Peter Doyle, John Solomon, Jane Ward and Cynthia Cole will attend the meeting. They will present a budget and explain the program. Peter Doyle mentions other topics that he would like to get Daniel Santos input on even though these may not directly involve the Department of Public Works (DPW) such as management of the private haulers and in particular what the private haulers are doing about recycling. Are there regulations that require that the haulers to take recycled material? We're not expecting the private haulers to actually look at what people are putting in their cans. But if they're not even offering to take recycling separately, then maybe that's something that would be of interest. It is thought that the town requires private haulers to offer recycling. If private haulers pick up recycling, where do they take it? Kathryn Hautanen looks on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MASSDEP) website. It says that many municipalities have adopted private hauler regulations that require recycling to be provided at a bundled rate. Haulers are not permitted to charge more for recycling. Peter Doyle also wanted to get Daniel Santos input on food waste and the question of enforcement of the MASSDEP limit for organic, which is currently one ton going down to a half ton. At a half ton there will be probably a good number of establishments in town that produce a half ton per week. It is mentioned MASSDEP also has the ability to come down and train businesses. It is thought that committee could sponsor a county wide workshop to the bigger producers of food waste.

John Solomon states where committee would want to start would be by making sure that any waste generator that would be subject to this limit is aware of the regulation. Offer to provide the assistance to comply voluntarily. Another area for committee to work on is finding suppliers, someone who will pick up food waste or a place to bring food waste. Black Earth is willing to do that. They would like get ten commercial customers in the Town of Barnstable to start. That would be the critical mass to make it worth their while to go around and do the route.

Peter Doyle suggests asking Daniel Santos if the Department of Public Works could write a short term contract using the recycling grant money. Setting up ten or more food waste producers in Barnstable to use Black Earth to pick up their food waste? Just to get started to see if it catches on from there. It is thought to be an interesting use of some of the recycling grant money. It'd be interesting to see what is said I don't know how much influence the DPW has over the whole thing, other than the fact that they have the contract to the hauler to haul it out of the Town of Barnstable.

There's also the organics Action Plan the MASSDEP. The Master Plan established a new goal to reduce disposal of food and other organic materials by an additional 500,000 tons annually by 2030. The plan lists activities they're doing as far as inspections and things that they're working on. They are doing a food weight density mapping study, which will identify generators, potentially subject to lower threshold. And once complete they can share the aggregate business data but specific business data is proprietary and can't be shared publicly.

Sustainability Position Gordon Starr

No Updates the climate change position still seems to be a hot issue.

Cape Light Compact Liaison Clay Schofield

No Updates

We need champions for the Somerville native plant bylaw. Peter Doyle will ask Daniel Santos what the Town of Barnstable has in place regarding native plantings. The Master Gardeners association is having a plant sale sometime in the future. They may have native plants. There is a new nursery opening up in Norwell Massachusetts called Blue Stem Natives. A women-owned native plant nursery focused on increasing accessibility and knowledge of native plants of New England.

We need champions for the Bottle Bill making its way through legislature.

Infrastructure and Energy Committee members discuss Wilkens Campus Housing Development going in Wilkens Lane Barnstable. The Project will include three, four-story residential multifamily buildings containing 272 units. Project currently reviewed by the Cape Cod Commission. Infrastructure and Energy Committee members discuss where does the recycling go? How much can they recycle? Should they be required to recycle the same items that the town recycles like cans and plastic and newspaper and cardboard and metal, should there be a place for food waste? Will there be sufficient electric charging stations. If you've got over 300 parking spaces, what percentage should be electric? Do you index it and say 10% more every five years or something that. Technology constantly changing target could be significantly different.

Gordon Starr explains there has been two meetings about Wilkens Campus Housing Development we actually had a WIN was able to get them to change the whole building from natural gas to electricity. Must be able to obtain incentives

Adjourn

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved by Kathryn Hautanen to adjourn the April 25, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 5:47 PM, 2nd by John Solomon; three members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2022 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes – April 25, 2022 Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: May 23, 2022 June 13, 2022 June 27, 2022

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, April 25, 2022

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes March 28, 2022 and April 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski