

STOUGHTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2023

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After a hiatus due to Town Meeting in May, the Committee held a meeting at the Library on June 7, 2023 commencing at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Nathan Cleveland, Chair, Dave Billo, Vice-Chair, and members Arthur Rigor da Eva, Tony Phillips, and Molly Cochran. Also in attendance was Steve Wilkinson.

The meeting began with Steve Wilkinson presenting a proposed article whereby Stoughton would ban sale of water bottles of one liter or less in volume. This was for information and discussion only. Steve shared a copy of the Concord Town Bylaw for reference. He did not have a draft proposed bylaw.

Steve is looking for guidance and support of the Committee for the proposal. He would be aiming to have an article in the warrant for spring Town Meeting.

Arthur raised questions about how retailers would feel about the ban and whether Steve should reach out to stores in town.

Dave gave a brief update of developments of relevance to the Committee at Town Meeting. For example, he noted that during a discussion about purchase of new police vehicles, reference was made to the Town policy of moving away from fuel inefficient vehicles (a policy the Committee was involved in drafting). Nathan mentioned that he would prepare a list of policies the Town has adopted through its work with the Committee. (It was suggested that Nathan should meet with the Town Manager on behalf of the Committee.)

David mentioned that he had spoken with Select Board member Lou Gitto about the building "stretch code" –with Lou saying that he wanted Stoughton to be out front on the issue.

Molly reported on Town Meeting adopting Article 71 –formation of a Climate Action Plan ("CAP") Committee. Discussion followed concerning recruiting candidates to apply to serve on the Committee, as well as the appointment of a member by this Committee to the new CAP Committee. Dave raised the need for clarity as to what issues this Committee versus the new CAP Committee would address and be charged with.

Nathan reported that he had touched base with member Richard Scardina, who will be stepping down from the Committee due to work commitments. Therefore, we will have an open seat on the Committee to fill in the coming weeks. Arthur suggested that it would be nice to have representation of condo owners.

Nathan then reported on efforts to pursue a grant for the Town working in conjunction with Canton. (Canton also just passed an article to form a climate action plan committee). The timing did not work out for Stoughton to join in Canton's grant application (which required a financial commitment). Nathan met with Tom Birmingham of Canton and Chris Pimentel of Sharon concerning the sustainability activities of the towns. It is hoped that the Committee will collaborate in future with Canton and Sharon on sustainability issues and events.

Marc Tisdelle, the Town Director of Development Services, told Nathan that he wants to work with us and Town Energy Manager Kathy Stanley and get in front of these issues and grant opportunities with the Town Planner.

Dave mentioned that he will pass along to Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), which denied our grant application this spring, that the CAP Committee article did pass, with hopes that the Town can be competitive for grant opportunities in the future.

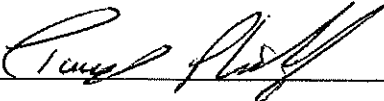
Nathan further reported that the school district's Operations Manager, Joyce Hussein, reached out to him about the proposed new South School. She wants our Committee to be connected to the owners project manager, Vertex, about building design. Nathan touched base with Vertex and will share information concerning public meetings regarding the South School design. At this point the building is in the conceptual phase.

The discussion then turned to recycling and the Page Street transfer station. Arthur mentioned Canton has a transfer station on Pine Street, which is close to thousands of Stoughton condo units.

Nathan stated that he spoke to Black Earth Compost about whether it would be interested in siting a facility in Stoughton, and was told that they were still looking for a space. Nathan will reach out to Mark Zamanian with the Redevelopment Authority to get some clarity about Page Street issues.

Finally, Dave reported that the donation from Abington Bank (for the April 14 library event) was made out to the Committee. He will have to speak to Bill Rowe, the Town Accountant, about deposit of the check, which may require going before the Select Board.

The meeting adjourned around 8:55. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the Library on June 21, 2023.



T. Phillips, Secretary

7.5.23

Date