

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee  
Minutes, December 13, 2021**

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present:** (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, John Solomon, Vice Chair, Dr. Paul Canniff, Kathryn Hautanen, Jane Ward, Rob Wilson

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:**

Clay Schofield

**Others in Attendance:** (On Zoom)

Councilor Gordon Starr, Town Council Liaison, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order:**

Peter Doyle called the December 13, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion moved by Dr. Paul Canniff to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by John Solomon five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by Rob Wilson to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Dr. Paul Canniff four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried. Jane Ward and Rob Wilson abstained.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Rob Wilson four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried. Dr. Paul Canniff abstained.

Motion moved by Dr. Paul Canniff to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by John Solomon four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by Rob Wilson to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by John Solomon five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

**New Business**

Peter Doyle introduces newest member Kathryn Hautanen. Peter Doyle informs members he will be looking for nominations for officers at the January 10, 2022 meeting. Peter Doyle also informs members that he is working on compiling data for annual report due January 12, 2022. If members wish to add comments to annual report send them via email to Peter Doyle.

Peter Doyle asks for a volunteer to monitor efforts to introduce a nationwide bottle bill. The bill is coming up again in the state legislature they're trying to expand and increase the amount of bottles that get recycled. Peter Doyle would like somebody to follow the progress, that may require getting in touch with the state representative, there's a bottle bill alliance group out there somewhere in Massachusetts. The committee could track a number of different items that are of interest to our committee. Jane Ward volunteers to track Bottle Bill development and report back to the committee.

Peter Doyle asks for a volunteer to research and track Organics Waste Reduction Goals described in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MASSDEP) 2030-solid-waste-master-plan. What are the regulations to reduce the disposal of food and other organic materials? Who in the State would enforce.

Kathryn Hautenan volunteers to track organics waste reduction goals development and report back to the committee.

### **Old Business**

#### Sustainability Position

Position has been recognized as valuable. And there's actually even a national or even an international organization of sustainability directors. Typically they come from either a business background or an engineering background. And they're common across industry as well as public entities, municipalities, cities and so forth. Important to look at position as a potential huge savings to the taxpayers both in energy savings and dollars spent. The sustainability position proposal has been handed off to Town Councilor Gordon Starr. Gordon Starr will report back to the committee as information becomes available.

#### Green Community,

Peter Doyle reads his first draft public comment presentation:

“Good Evening Town Councilors, Town Council President Levesque and Town Manager Ells, my name is Peter Doyle and I am the chair for the Town of Barnstable’s Infrastructure and Energy Committee. I am here to speak in favor of the application for the Green Community Designation and the Town’s adoption of the Stretch Code.

The Infrastructure and Energy Committee has been in pursuit of the Green Community designation for many years and at its last meeting voted in favor of this presentation and its content.

In July 2020 the Town Council approved the Emergency Climate Change Resolution which recognized that climate change threatens the earth. The resolution acknowledges that we must now engage in a dedicated effort to stabilize the earth although it surely will change, the hour is getting late. We now have a brief chance; I believe it's around 10 years, if emissions are cut by half, to dodge the worst. The Town of Barnstable has been vigorous in its energy conservation efforts. The solar, wind, cogeneration installations and building energy conservation are extensive and ongoing in our public buildings. The Town is essentially operating as a green community, it makes sense to earn the official designation and become eligible for the State Green Community grant funds of close to \$200,000 yearly and future grants as they become available.

Climate change is real and we are experiencing local, national and world wide floods, droughts, freezes, melting ice, heat waves, hurricanes, tornadoes, nor’easters, wildfires and ticks diseases. The earth is running a fever, the medicine it needs is ours to administer,

The Green Community designation has been before this council before with the sticking point being the Stretch Code or now called the Minimize Life Cycle Costs criteria. The duel between the prescriptive regulation and the performance, i.e. the Stretch Code, regulation and whether this conflict is an economic burden or boon continues to divide. That the Town has declared a climate emergency resolution argues in favor of the adaptation of the Stretch code. With the Green Community adaptation there is the opportunity to reduce emissions and gain revenue.

The Infrastructure and Energy Committee wishes to recognize the leadership of Town Manager Ells, the work of David Anthony, Director of Property and Risk Management, Margaret Song of the Cape Light Compact and Gordon Starr the committee's town council liaison. The committee has no staff support so this assistance was appreciated.

We have unfinished business to further the Emergency Climate Change Resolution and the promise to future generations. The Infrastructure and Energy Committee recommends a favorable vote.

Infrastructure and Energy Committee members discuss the presentation; members will send Peter Doyle suggested updates via email. Once finalized Peter Doyle will send copy to members.

How is Town going to respond to application for green community status? Infrastructure and Energy Committee will continue to pursue energy reduction plan and energy efficient vehicle policy. Airport Commission responded favorably and School Committee is expected to respond favorably.

Recycling Subcommittee,

John Solomon is going to meet with Daniel W. Santos, P.E. and P.J. Kelliher, SWD Supervisor on December 15, 2021 to discuss food waste collection and composting.

Recycling subcommittee completed draft of an informational flyer and a customer survey. One thing like to do is find some funding, to provide people with a starter kit for collecting food waste at home. The Transfer station has some plastic totes. Would like to give people some compostable bag liners it makes the process a whole lot better.

Draft recycling area signage to assist people with recycling and composting food waste. Subcommittee wants to add something about food waste collection on the web page.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that they will be lowering their threshold. The organics ban to a half ton - businesses will be prohibited from disposing and more than half ton of food waste into the general trash.

Native Plant bylaw

Jane Ward reports that Somerville has passed a native planting ordinance that establishes minimum requirements for native plants and trees to be planted in city-owned parks, open spaces and streets. The legislation, which applies to new plantings carried out by the city or on behalf of the city, defines native plants and trees as those with origins in North America east of the Mississippi River. It requires that native species constitute 100 percent of all new plantings in any city-owned land; at least 75 percent of new plantings in city-owned parks; and at least 50 percent of street trees and new plantings in other city-owned property, subject to certain exemptions.

Jane Ward will track down the actual bylaw and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

Peter Doyle asked everybody to send ideas “what I can do to save the world”. Peter Doyle would like information to add to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee webpage in an effort to make it a useful tool for citizens. Members would also like to see food waste collection shed highlighted on the webpage to encourage use.

### **Adjourn**

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved Jane Ward to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:07 PM, 2nd by Dr. Paul Canniff; six members in attendance voted affirmatively.

**Next Meeting:** December 27, 2021      5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

**Upcoming Meeting:**    January 10, 2022            January 24, 2022            February 14, 2022

### **Documents and Exhibits**

Handout 1: Agenda, December 13, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes October 4, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes October 25, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes November 8, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes November 22, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski