

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee
Minutes, October 24, 2022**

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)
Peter Doyle, Chair; Jane Ward, Vice Chair, John Solomon, Rob Wilson

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:
Kathryn Hautanen

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)
Gordon Starr, Councilor, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant,

Call to Order:

Peter Doyle, Chair called the October 24, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:06 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Rob Wilson, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Old Business

John Solomon presents a plan for removing organics from solid waste stream. The first thing proposed specifically with regard to the Transfer Station is that we set targets as to how much we're going to collect. The idea that the ultimate target is have 100% by 2030. A good way to measure our progress and motivate people would be to set annual goals. Some things we can do add more signs and more publicity. Utilize website for ongoing information.

Members ask John Solomon to clarify where does the waste go that private haulers pickup? John Solomon explains it doesn't come to the Transfer Station they haul it off Cape and dispose of it wherever they can get the cheapest cost. Members also ask where waste generated from businesses and school goes. John Solomon explains businesses mostly are using private haulers. Same answer not to the transfer station and the schools. I do not know what happens with the schools.

John Solomon would like to propose a visit to the transfer station. John Solomon would invite Town Councilor Paul Cusack. He is new town councilor in precinct five. He was just elected in a special election a month or so ago. And he has actually expressed an interest in visiting the transfer station. John Solomon would like to show off all the good things that we've done there already and then we can also talk about what could be done to improve the issues we have such as the flow. Scheduling a site visit with anyone who's interested who wants to come would be a good thing.

Item number two is to identify businesses and institutions that generate one half ton or more per week of food waste and support them in coming into compliance with the new Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) threshold. DEP is planning to announce the new lower threshold for commercial establishment that have a half ton or more per week, you must divert the organics. This is going to take some work on behalf of those establishments to comply with this. Members ask if there is a list of businesses that generates more than a half ton. John Solomon replies No, this is one of the things that will need to be identified based on how many meals they serve. Members ask do you think they pay for their private pickup by weight or by container. Do you have any idea about that?

John Solomon says he would guess by container because otherwise they'd have to have a scale on the crane. John Solomon thinks DEP has a way to help train businesses on how to divert organics. DEP could come to the area and do a workshop. Committee thinks it's important that we educate. Part of the message has to be this is a requirement.

Organic waste is actually a resource that we're paying to have hauled away and made into methane. It's fertilizer for our yards. If we compost our food waste and mix it in with biochar or other carbon sources such as leaves. We're going to be making our own organic fertilizer taking something that has a cost to dispose a resource with value. It's worth thinking through what you're trying to do because we really shouldn't be paying to haul it away.

This is really a compelling case. Number one methane reduction, number two we have a solid waste problem, number three we are creating this very beneficial resource that has great environmental benefits. It does take some effort to get it started it just really makes a lot of sense to head in this direction.

John Solomon will continue to work to develop a plan for collection of food waste at schools. Members recall a high school composting project recycling organic waste using waste dehydration to produce excellent compost. We could build out from that experience as a starting point. John Solomon will try to make some connections with either the environmental clubs or the science clubs. Members think the schools are important because it's education. It's getting kids in the habit early.

John Solomon begins discussion of requiring private haulers to collect food waste separately. John Solomon would also like to see private haulers be required to collect metal, paper, cardboard and textiles minimally in a single stream format. John Solomon explains that currently very little plastic is being recycled. Members ask where the plastic bottles with deposits are going. John Solomon says much greater chance is actually being recycled in the

true sense of being made into new bottles or something else. Assumption is that deposit plastic bottles are not in the solid waste stream. There are two things to work on. One is to work on a more broad deposit system. That's the state level and two is to work on producer responsibility bill that somehow regulates plastic material used in packaging.

Members ask where glass from the transfer station is going John Solomon states glass is taken away at a lower cost than for general trash. Probably should continue to collect glass.

John Solomon is asked when I go to the transfer station there's a demolition pile are people aware of what you know what materials are legitimate for a demolition pile, that it doesn't have any food waste in it?

John Solomon states contractors are aware of it a lot of the items that are going in there are too big for the compactor.

Members think John Solomon's report is a great start and suggest he send it around so members can review and make suggestions all agree it is the direction we want to go in next step is to go public. Yeah.

Jane Ward has two notices for people Friday October 28, 2022 is the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative Net Zero Zoom meeting. It's like quite a lot of good information about going net zero and I'm going to be doing a very short talk in a session. I'm going to do a case study of making a residential location closer to net zero and electrified and so forth. But there are all sorts of things about being energy efficient with affordable housing. So that's Friday, it's free. And the other thing I wanted to invite people to is a tour of the New England biochar facility that we have set up with Bob Wells for Saturday, November 5, from nine to noon. It's free. He's just going to explain how it works. It's a very interesting substance that can be used not only for composting, but for embedding carbon into the ground forever and it can be used for water purification. We have a real incredible facility here on the Cape that not only makes it but they build the furnaces.

Peter Doyle tells members to be thinking about new members for the committee. Gordon Starr also wants members to begin thinking about Green Communities and the stretch code. We have two councilors that are up for election and next November all 13 councilors are up for election. Somehow there's a cycle every 10 years where that happens. There are two councilors who will be timing out.

Peter Doyle asks Gordon Starr to give an update on the sustainability position?

Gordon Starr will contact David Anthony for an update last he know the process was down to one or two people that they thought would be good, would be good, but I don't know if they've hired anybody yet.

The next meeting is November 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Adjourn

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. Rob Wilson makes **Motion** to adjourn the October 24, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:29 PM, 2nd by Jane Ward; four members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: November 28, 2022 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: December 12, 2022 December 26, 2022

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, October 24, 2022

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski