

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES - September 7, 2022, 7:00pm**

**Attendance via zoom:**

Committee Members: Judy Asarkof, Joeth Barlas, Christina Christodoulopoulos, Dan Cook, Launa Zimmaro (left early), Bob Zogg

Non-voting members: Sue Thomas, Sustainability Coordinator (temporary Chair)

Members of the public: Deborah Bentley (Heald Road), Katalin Egri (Wildwood Drive), Robert Egri (Wildwood Drive)

Minutes preparation: Christina Christodoulopoulos

Minutes approved: September 19, 2022

**Meeting start: 7:03 PM**

Introductions

“What is Sustainability” ice-breaker discussion

Review of ESC Mission Statement (found on ESC website)

Sue has been making rounds of town department heads

Brainstorming and meaningful starting points:

- Opportunities, biggest bang for buck
- Public outreach, awareness of new state and federal laws, prepare for upcoming changes in laws
- Renew Green Communities status
- Sue to bring grants to ESC that Carlisle is eligible for, grants based on Carlisle needs not vise versa
- What is state of electric fleet and the capital plan, what can be funded by grants
- Establish guidelines for municipal decisions, develop sustainability code/plan for facilities planning, aim for efficient building design, look at life cycle costs not just upfront costs
- Capture rebate opportunities
- Track purchasing patterns
- Solid waste disposal
- ESC should reach out to other committees soon
- Ryan (Town Administrator) plans to establish monthly conservation meetings
- Financial and environmental sustainability are linked
- Consider optional top tier Green Communities stretch code (would need to go to Town Meeting; the upgraded stretch code going into effect January 1; as a Green Community, Carlisle is already committed to the State mandated upgrade)
- Discount on building permits if meet the code already in effect
- Establish home tours - net zero homes, native plants, etc.
- Weston as example has zoning bylaw incorporating sustainability and environmental focus
- Municipal Vulnerability program and Hazard Mitigation Plan have action plans and grants available

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- Native plants and tree planting programs
- Collect data as new sustainable technology is installed in buildings, establish baselines and metrics
- Start with Municipal Vulnerability, Emergency Preparedness plan, Hazard Mitigation plan, Path to Zero, Master Plan, etc. to establish priorities and baselines
- Workshops with Garden Club, COA, etc.
- Share and collaborate with other towns
- Focus on outreach, one stop source for everything environmental on ESC website
- Publicize ESC exists, liaisons
- Get auditing firms to help residents
- Consider vetting a few vendors and provide on websites

Partial goals:

- Funding plan
- Media plan
- Resources sharing

Discussion of ESC structure:

Possible subsections (depending on final membership composition)

- Energy
- Fauna/flora/funga; land/water/air
- Community outreach
- Possibly solid waste (Transfer Station Action Committee is on it)

Next steps:

- Sue will obtain and share sustainability guidelines from Westford, Weston, other towns
- Sue will reach out to Ryan (Town Administrator) regarding one stop source website
- Sue will send doodle poll to members to determine date of next meeting
- Judy will share Land Stewardship Committee contact info with Sue so she can join future LSC meeting
- Members will consider structure of the committee, Chair and other officers
- Members to consider priorities of ESC
- Members to determine whether meetings will be recorded and posted (to start next meeting)

Comments from public:

Debbie Bentley asked for a way (such as Google drive) non-ESC members can share existing info and documents; Mass Cultural Council has grants for sustainability education

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Zoom chat posts:

**Deborah Bentley** to Everyone (7:54 PM)

Municipal Buildings only account for 4% of the towns Carbon's Emissions.

**Launa Zimmaro** League of Women Voters to Everyone (8:14 PM)

I believe Ryan intends to rework the town website. Would be good to talk with him about Christina's idea of "one stop shopping" for this committee.

This work is going on in many towns right now. It would be good to figure out how to connect with those towns, find out what they are doing. Do we have anyone on the MAGIC group anymore?

**Deborah Bentley** to Everyone (8:20 PM)

Kate Reid is the MAGIC liason

**Launa Zimmaro** League of Women Voters to Everyone (8:20 PM)

I will need to drop off in a few more minutes.

**Deborah Bentley** to Everyone (8:24 PM)

The new building code slide deck is here. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/doer-stretch-code-informational-webinar-slides/download>

**Deborah Bentley** to Everyone (8:29 PM)

This book, on the embodied carbon of everything is available in the Library. <https://howbadarebananas.com>

**Meeting end:** 8:39 pm

