



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

**BOARD/COMMITTEE:** Sustainability Committee

**MEETING DATE:** February 12, 2020

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**PLACE:** Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough MA

**Members Present:** Francie Nolde, Chair; Barbara Salzman, Member; Larry Grossman, Member; Palmer Moore, Member; Richard Garrison, Member

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Bob Stemple, Select Board Liaison; Bentley Herget, Building Commissioner

### Summary of discussion of each topic:

- 1) January minutes: Chair Nolde moved to accept minutes from the January 8, 2020, meeting. Member Grossman seconded. *Approved: 4-0 (Member Garrison absent)*
- 2) Stretch Energy Building Code: Grossman noted that adopting the Stretch Energy Building Code should not impose additional duties on the Building Department, Building Commissioner Herget agreed; Grossman clarified that the Stretch Code is designed to always stay 20% ahead of the base building code in terms of efficiency requirements; Nolde asked if the Committee should be educating the community on energy efficiency opportunities; Barbara Salzman suggested a meeting at the Library to discuss methods to improve one's home; Herget agreed and will send the educational information he encountered in his own research; Grossman added that the Town of Brookline had some very helpful information online, as they were an early adopter of the Stretch Code; Herget concluded he will be in support of recommending the Town's adoption of the Stretch Code; Grossman noted that most upgrades have a payback of three years, and Member Garrison added that the Committee should be sure to include such financial benefits in its education and outreach.
- 3) Solar bylaw update: Nolde attended the Planning Board meeting on February 3, where the current draft bylaw was presented; the draft was incomplete and failed to address residential solar systems; Planning Board Chair, Cindy Markowitz, expressed the Planning Board's desire to spend another year researching and developing an appropriate solar bylaw, assembling a subcommittee from the Town and perhaps utilizing the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for consulting in the effort; Garrison asked if the delay would obstruct residential homeowners from doing solar, or even a project like the Green Street Solar project; Grossman suggested it would not.

- 4) Public safety property: Nolde cited an email from the Select Board Chair, Maria Neyland, who is requesting nominees to a new building committee to evaluate the development of a certain property on Stow Road, just south of Massachusetts Avenue, for new public safety facilities. Nolde noted that Hugh Fortmiller, town resident, was interested in joining the Sustainability Committee and, in turn, participating in the new building committee. Grossman expressed interest in assisting in the evaluation of the development but was concerned about having time to attend future meetings. Liaison Stemple was concerned about inviting new members to a committee if it was clear that they had only near-term interests in participation. **Action Item(s): Nolde to confirm with resident Fortmiller if he would be interested in joining the Committee long-term, or if he was instead primarily interested in the new building committee.**
- 5) Devens HHW site visit: Nolde suggested sticking with the previous plan of visiting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, despite potential scheduling conflicts; DPW Director, Ed Kukkula, and Department Assistant, Vicki Rzasa, were interested in joining the site visit, as well; Nolde clarified that DPW would be responsible for presenting a warrant article on the Town's participation with Devens HHW at Town Meeting; Nolde and Member Salzman planned to meet with DPW representatives on February 20 to discuss the broader topic of the MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP).
- 6) Sunrise Movement: Nolde mentioned that Town resident and student, Matt Fleming, expressed interest to herself and Salzman about getting involved with the Committee, and perhaps bringing 5-6 other students who were likewise involved in Sunrise.
- 7) Boxborough2030 Master Plan: Nolde and Salzman recapped a presentation by US Senator Ed Markey regarding the Green New Deal, and Nolde would like Committee's opinion on submitting it to be included in the Master Plan; Garrison asked what the benefit would be to the Committee by including it; discussion that Green New Deal proposal could be a way of educating and inspiring citizenry. Salzman suggested holding a presentation at the Town library that could bring in speakers to present the major concepts of the Green New Deal, educate the community and help translate its broad objectives into specific things that could be done at the Town level; Nolde asked if State Senator Jamie Eldridge would be a good candidate for the presentation, or at least might know someone who is. **Action Item(s): Nolde to reach out to Eldridge and confirm possible presenters for such an event.**
- 8) Carbon Pollution Bill: Nolde highlighted Representative Jennifer Benson's Carbon Pollution Bill (H2810) and asked if the Committee would recommend that the Select Board sign a letter in support of it; Stemple stated that the Select Board would certainly consider it if the Sustainability Committee brought before them clear, concise bullet points as to why the Town should support it; Garrison wanted to know more about how the funds generated by the carbon fees would be administered. **Action Item(s): Nolde reach out to Rebecca Morris, former Committee member and Director of Communications at Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future, to see if she would be willing to come discuss the details of the bill with the Committee at our next meeting, and then accompany the Sustainability Committee members to speak at a Select Board meeting.**

**List of Exhibits used:**

1. Green New Deal: Guiding Summary (2-page synopsis).
2. H.2810: An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions.
3. Municipal Leader Carbon Pricing Support Letter (2019-2020).
4. Letter from Senator Mike Barrett explaining the Benson Bill H.2810.