

Minutes of Meeting

Boxborough Sustainability Committee Meeting – 7/12/23

Roll Call – Members present- Tavalacci, Davies, Salzman, Garrison, Jayaraman, Nolde, Moore, Jasrasaria

Public – M. Kamp, H. Fortmiller, P. Jayaraman

Nolde welcomed new member Tavalacci

Agreed – can plan Sept. 2 Fifers Day via emails and do not need August meeting

Nolde review of Campanelli development at Beaver Brook

Salzman reported that Rita Grossman, on behalf of Boxborough Land Trust, discussed the idea/value of attracting a bird species research center as a tenant for one of the buildings.

Discussion about value of having more “amenities” than just a restaurant.

Discussion about mowing – some suggest “mow” others support annual mowing to maintain the meadow. Moore will find some best management practices for maintaining a meadow environment.

Fortmiller suggested we be prepared to provide recommendations/wish list to planning board in very near future.

Kamp recommended getting our wish list to the developer or planning board this week. Nolde said yes.

Salzman/Davies – priority is to “adopt the Specialized Code (net zero)” which will provide developer some flexibility and achieves the net zero goals important to the Town’s Sustainability Policy.

Davies to send Nolde a list of other Vulnerability and broader environmental issues that should be considered.

Tavalacci suggested idea of hiring or developing an agreement with a habitat “steward” organization such as MA branch of National Endangered Species to manage the meadows.

Kamp discussed plan to invite members of town boards and committees to take the 2040 Course. Next session is with residents of the new Enclave development. Alec Wade to send the invitation out. Kamp highlighted the value of educating all town entities as each entity has a sustainability component of their work. Barbara mentioned that if town employees could be given time off during the day to attend the course would be very positive.

Discussion about person who is promoting nuclear energy, Eco Nuclear and wants to make a presentation. Hal Salzman strongly recommends not giving this person a platform as Union of Concerned Scientist says that nuclear energy is not yet safe 2021. Agreement that we should watch the video she sent, read Salzman's statement and the Union of Concerned Scientist report (pg 115). Take it from there.

A woman from Boxborough asked if the town could organize a home pick up of food waste for composting. Nolde said Black Earth needs a minimum of 100 households to sign up for them to offer this service. Nolde said she (and perhaps the interested woman) is willing to work on trying to get 100 households to sign up. Flyers, leaflets. Jasrasaria suggested that Black Earth should do the promotion since they will benefit from it.

Discussion about how to get carpooling/shuttle bus organized to bring people to future Campanelli development. This could be enlarged to a community wide service – this is on wish list. Also, train, EV bikes, uber.

Fifers Day – Nolde will be back in touch a few weeks before Sep. 1 to get people organized to staff the booth and the zero waste stations.

Salzman talked about Heat Smart Alliance that meets on Sat. mornings and asked if anyone would like to attend. Can also be trained as a Heat Pump Coach. Jasrasaria said he just changed over to heat pumps and will report back to group on how it is working over time.

Nolde said Affordable Housing in Boxborough is interested in what Acton Heat Pump Alliance is doing. Salzman talked about her experience when first installing their heat pump and would have benefited from exposure to a Heat Pump Coach. Barbara sending info to Jay about Heat Pump Alliance.

1414 Mass Ave. – Aug 21 planning board meeting to discuss. MEPA said Lincoln Prop. Needed to come back with an revised plan that addresses some of the concerns. Adam Properties July 21 Planning Board Meeting to discuss that development. Salzman said very important that members of the BSC attend these meetings, important that Planning Board hear our voices. Salzman, Tavolacci, Nolde all said they have been attending these meetings. Planning boards meet Mon. night 7:30 pm.

Plan is to launch discussion of new building bi-law – at the Sept. BSC meeting. We need to know what the Specialized Code is.