

City known as the Town of Greenfield, Massachusetts

Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee

Minutes

114 Main Street

Greenfield, MA 01301

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Members present: Carole Collins, Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Tara Kurland, Don Ouelette, Kurt Richardson, Mark Maloni, Ashli Stempel – Quorum Reached

Others Present: Laurie DiDonato

Meeting Called to order at 4:36pm

**Approval of minutes:**

June 2015 minutes – Nancy made the motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by George. Motion passed unanimously.

**SGIC Ordinance Update:**

The new SGIC ordinance was approved and signed on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Complete Streets – George**

- The Bicycle Coalition developed a Complete Streets Policy that they would like to have adopted by the Town. George is asking the SGIC to approve it. Policy adoption will make the Town eligible for funding opportunities possibly available in the fall.
- George acknowledged one content fix is needed in the policy: to remove a reference to the sidewalk plan, as it was confirmed there was none in existence.
- There was discussion on whether it was a Policy or Ordinance, and general consensus that it is better as a policy which allows best judgment rather than forcing potentially cost prohibitive requirements.
- Mark thought, since it's a policy and not an ordinance, it may not have to go to the Council and may be possible to have the Mayor adopt the policy. He offered to follow up with the Town Clerk's Office.
- There was discussion on the Task Force designation in the policy, which states "The Complete Streets Task Force will be a multidisciplinary team and members will include representation from: Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Planning & Development, Recreation, Inspection and other committees, departments or organizations as appropriate. The focus of this Task Force will be ensuring the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy and, where necessary, altering existing practices and overcoming barriers that may act as impediments to implementation."
  - Nancy: Should a member of the Bicycle Coalition should be included? George said it wasn't necessary.
  - Mark: Could an existing committee like the SGIC serve this function, rather than making something new? Different types of expertise may be required, depending on the project, so it was agreed it should be open to other members.

- There was discussion on how the task force would be brought in when a project was being considered. One role for the task force should be to track funding opportunities and initiate projects, as well as be consulted on existing projects. Don will be involved in any new project, so will consult the task force when necessary.
- The Town policy will not affect state roads, but the State is progressive and should follow similar guidelines.
- Additional edits needed for the policy included deleting a redundant sentence in the Vision and Purpose section, removing 'therefore' in same section, and adding a definition of Complete Streets at the beginning of the policy with a link to Smart Growth America, National Complete Streets Coalition site.
- Although additional edits were proposed, it was agreed that it was more important to move this forward as is, and consider more extensive revisions over the next year.
- Motion made by Kurt: The SGIC endorses the Complete Streets Policy, with minor edits and the addition of a Complete Streets definition at the beginning, to be adopted by the Town. Seconded by Ashli. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee members** – Louise's term expired on June 30<sup>th</sup> and she decided not to continue on the SGIC. One prospective member has expressed interest and will be forwarding their information to the Mayor.

Kurt's term expired in 2014, but he was automatically renewed and is unsure he can continue to attend meetings given his schedule. He is willing to continue serving, but would prefer if a replacement was found for his seat.

Audrey has a press release about committee vacancies, Carole will check on the plan to announce. Ashli will post on Facebook about vacancies. Laurie will contact the Youth Commission. Nancy has contacted a few people about membership, but has not heard back yet.

#### **Snow Removal Ordinance:**

This ordinance went before Town Council but was tabled due to uncertainty about whether there should be assistance to those with fiscal or physical limitations. It should be on the next meeting's agenda, but could get bumped if the agenda is long.

#### **Master Plan Lead Stakeholder Clarification:**

George looked at these assignments and found several that should be moved from Planning to Energy. He also felt several may have been assigned to Planning simply because there was no where else to put them. He will meet with Eric Twarog to determine which of the Planning items should remain so.

#### **Working Groups**

Two working groups were suggested: Communications and Progress Tracking. Communications will focus on how to get the word out to the public on what the committee is doing. Progress Tracking will look at how to measure the progress being made and dig in to the master plan to assess where we are and determine the best next steps.

Nancy and Ashli volunteered to be on the Communications work group. Nancy, Mark, Carole and Laurie volunteered to be on the Progress tracking work group.

Mark raised the issue of advocating with the Mayor for next year's budget for the SGIC to have money to hire a consultant on how best to proceed.

#### **Announcements:**

- Revisiting an idea raised by Kurt at a recent meeting, Carole would like to pursue requiring interruption devices on watering systems so they would not be active during rain. Kurt offered to provide information on how to accomplish.
- Biomass ordinance passed, banning large scale biomass. Language around woodstoves was removed from the ordinance – since it was contentious. Carole said education around woodstove pollution will be a follow-up goal for the Energy Department and The Building and Health Departments were also on board to perform outreach. Steve Ronhave is focusing on this effort also and is planning a presentation. Mark echoed that he and the Council are interested in following up with stove change-out programs and incentives to reduce residential wood smoke pollution.
- DPW hired a new engineer: Chris Stoddard.
- SGIC has a \$1500-\$2500 budget for FY2016. Carole to confirm the amount.

Next meeting scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Motion to adjourn made by Kurt, seconded by Don. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 6pm.