

City known as the Town of Greenfield, Massachusetts

Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee

Minutes

14 Court Square

Greenfield, MA 01301

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Members present: Carole Collins, Nancy Hazard, Ashli Stempel, Tara Kurland, Don Ouelette, George Touloumtzis—quorum reached. Kurt Richardson and Mark Maloni arrived at 5pm
Others Present: Laurie DiDonato

Meeting Called to order at 4:35pm

October minutes: Ashli made motion to approve minutes as written. Don seconded. Motion passed. George abstained.

Complete Streets: Maureen Pollack is still checking on when the all-day workshop would be. Eric Twarog suggested not waiting, as it might not happen. The quality of the workshop is uncertain also. But we do want to approach policy adoption with lots of public education.

- Community Compact with Governor's office - Complete Streets is one of the goals the Mayor cited working on for this.
- There are technical assistance grants for writing the policy.
- The policy we have did not go through the Planning Board, as the SGIC was going to take it on, with the Planning Board's knowledge and approval.
- Policy vs. Ordinance – George encouraged us to make the policy an ordinance, as it provides more assurance of protection for vulnerable road users, and would increase funding eligibility. Don still worries that it would cripple the DPW. The policy, however, has a list of exceptions which should alleviate that problem. Exceptions include cost and constrained area. The ordinance is not one size fits all, the task force will evaluate the best way to accomplish the goal of making a connected network of safe travel for all modes of transport.
- The City of Holyoke passed an ordinance. George will forward Holyoke ordinance to the group
- Having an ordinance will be important for the longevity of the policy, as it will hold even if the DPW head or Mayor Changes.

Carole – Related issue: Smart Growth America Grant application went in for a Walkability workshop. The winners will be announced in early December. If we get the grant, the workshop will happen sometime in 2016. It is a 1 day workshop, which may be too long for residents to commit to, but maybe we can carve out a shorter section and encourage people to come.

The committee agreed on a plan for moving forward on Complete Streets:

1. Public Education: Wait to see if we get the Walkability workshop, and wait to see if state will offer one on Complete Streets. If not, maybe a private company could sponsor one (cost is \$7000- \$15000).

2. Mark will bring up Complete Streets at next Council meeting to get the name out there and get it on GCTV, he will tie it in with the cyclist deaths and ask other councilors to learn about it

News Release: Is almost ready to go. The Mayor will approve quote early next week. A few edits were suggested, including taking out any mention of the specific costs to town. Ashli or Carole will forward it to Anthony Hill.

Fall Event: Nancy and Carole have discussed Carole presenting a PowerPoint presentation on smart growth. Carole has found some possible starting points but they need to be tweaked to fit with Greenfield. She will send out presentation details to get more opinions before putting in too much work improving it. Mark and Tara are willing to look at presentation and give feedback. One suggestion was to focus vocabulary around property taxes and how to grow the tax base to reduce taxes.

An alternative is to see if Christy will do a presentation focused on parks.

It was decided the best day for Fall event is Thursday December 3rd at 5:30 pm at Library or Greenfield Market. George has also confirmed we can use 170 Main. Nancy wanted people to check out the space before we use it. George will put anyone in contact with the person in charge.

Community Preservation Act: Laurie determined the State requirements for spending CPA money earned from the surcharge and state match is as follows: Towns are required to spend, or set aside for future spending, a minimum of 10% of their annual CPA revenues for each of the three following categories: open space/recreation, historic preservation, and community housing.

New Business:

Leaf Raking Help for Seniors – Nancy wanted to bring up that this is a community concern.

Parking for Train – Tara heard from FRCOG that there are no signs directing people to train parking. It is believed there is parking in the Hope St. lot and you must go online to order tags. Don will ask Lane about signage.

DPW Report – Don

See Report submitted. There was discussion on:

- Trolley will go around town on Saturday 9am-1pm to show new Councilors the ongoing projects and needs of the town.
- Capital Plan will be on website
- Rocky Mtn Tank needs to be replaced
- 2 ice rinks are being made – Beacon Field and the Swimming hole.

Announcements:

Greening Greenfield Event on Monday 4pm – Climate change discussion
Healthy Living Program through FRCOG- Just had a kick-off meeting with Rachel Stoler

Move to adjourn by George at 6pm. Seconded by Nancy. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for December 10th, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 6pm.