

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Minutes

Thursday, 2/28/2019, 5:00-6:30pm

Attending: *SGIC members:* Mike Pattavina, Carole Collins, Nancy Hazard, Marlo Warner, George Touloumtzis, Tara Kurkland, Jay Lord, MJ Adams, Tim Dolan. *Director and Planning and Development:* Eric Twarog. *Planning Board:* Linda Smith, Jim Allen, Charles Roberts, Amy McMahan. *Tree Committee* - Helaina Balcanoff. *FRCOG* - Alyssa LaRose

Approval of January Minutes – Mike made motion to approve minutes, George seconded, passed unanimously.

Old Business

Waste Management event Mike Pattavina submitted a summary on content of event (see attachment) – Marlo informed group he can't make the 28th, and other options were discussed, including April 4th or the 25th. A signup sheet went around for help with setup and AV, refreshments, clean up, greeter/sign in table. Nancy asked for feedback on future topics to add to the evaluation form and also asked if committee would like to have an informational table.

April Agenda: There was discussion on agenda items for the next meeting on April 25th, which included debrief of waste management event, planning for creative economy event, and the Deerfield street report.

Joint meeting with Planning board -Green Infrastructure/ Low Impact Development (LID) Presentation and Discussion

After introductions, Nancy gave a summary of the mission of SGIC and discussed LID references in the Master Plan.

Alyssa LaRose presented an overview of Green Infrastructure/LID.

LID strategies and benefits discussed included: Reduction of impervious surfaces, addition of street trees, addition of vegetated swales and bioretention areas, use of porous asphalt for parking, structural soils, and benefits of increased water quality in local streams and rivers, reduced flooding, and habitat creation and protection. Co-implementation opportunities, such as complete street, I&I repairs, and open space planning also mentioned. It was pointed out that there is resistance to permeable pavement from developers who resist it because of New England climate. UNH Stormwater Center was recommended as a resource as they have design specifications for cold climates. Carole also pointed out that maintenance cost of permeable pavement is offset by the avoidance of black ice and frost heaves. Marlo mentioned that Greenfield soil composition (clay) and high water table areas can increase implementation costs. Both issues are also addressed at UNH website. Local examples of successful permeable paving mentioned: Whately Ride & Drive lot, and Brattleboro Food Coop lot. Alyssa felt it is time to move beyond pilot projects and make LID strategies the norm.

Eric Twarog presented on Greenfield's issues, and LID strategies and goals in Greenfield. Issues he mentioned include the high percentage (86%) of impermeable surface in the urbanized section of town; lots of infiltration into the storm water system due to aging pipes; direct flow of stormwater into the Green River; and low tree canopy contributing to high downtown temperatures. He gave examples of good and bad sub-division practices and provided information on ways the town is encouraging good practices. For example: Cluster development has become by right and there are plans to make conventional development by special permit. Minimum, rather than maximum parking requirements. Greenfield has a guidebook for developers highlighting strategies that are beneficial for the environment, such as cluster development; right-sizing parking lots & roads; tree belts wide enough for healthy trees etc. Challenges to implementing some of these strategies include fire safety concerns and maintenance costs that often fall to the town.

Links to slides and guidebook:

2019-LID slideset of Alyssa Larose & EricTwarog's Feb 28, 2019 presentations

https://greenfield-ma.gov/files/LID-All-for_SGIC-2019_FINAL.pdf

2018-LID Developers Guidebook

https://greenfield-ma.gov/files/LID_Guidance_Greenfield_FINAL.pdf