

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
Minutes
Thursday, 9/19/2019, 5:00-6:30pm

Attending: Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Jay Lord, MJ Adams, Mike Pattavina, Tara Kurland, Hannah Rechtschaffen **Absent:** Tim Dolan, Marlo Warner, Carole Collins **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato **Guest:** Elizabeth Quirk
Meeting called to order at 5:04pm.

Approval of May Minutes – George moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. All voted in favor except for Hannah who abstained.

Updates to achieving Sustainable Greenfield's goals – Mike – Source to Sea cleanup on September 28th, 9am Green River Pool; George – Transportation safety & service progress: Bank Row bump-out /flashers at cross-walk and expanded train schedule; MJ – Housing for homeless progress: Salvation army warming center, 188 Main progress, Possible grant: Greenfield applying for 'vacant storefront district'(and more) to help with the issue; Hannah – Downtown vibrancy progress: Hive sign is up for new MakerSpace; Laurie – Reducing fossil fuel use: Green Communities grant to upgrade Police station HVAC; Jay – Local food security progress: Just Roots now supported by 3 health insurance companies, research study on benefits of local food accepted in two journals; Elizabeth – ADA & walk safety improved: brick inlays on sidewalks; Tara – Town politics: Mayoral primary results are promising for sustainability progress; Nancy –State politics opportunity: Senator Jo Comerford is on working group for the development of a climate change bill in Senate and is looking for input.

Deerfield Street report: MJ has sent out the report and is asking people to read it for discussion at the next meeting.

EPA Local Food Grants: This is a grant offering technical assistance around planning an event to boost support for local food initiatives as part of downtown revitalization efforts. There was discussion on whether the SGIC wants to take lead on this and it was decided the timeline was too short. Keep aware of it for next year.

Voting on International Energy Code - City officials have an opportunity to vote on the next international energy code, which directly informs Massachusetts code. There was discussion around whether SGIC members have authority to participate in this vote, as the Mayor has indicated he did not want Greenfield to vote. Nancy learned that the Mayor does not have the authority to prevent officials from voting. Nancy needs to identify the 4 voting members by Sept 20th, so was looking for volunteers. The voting process could take a few hours, but there will be guidance provided from the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition and Mass Climate Action Network. Mike, Jay, and Tara volunteered to participate.

Community Gatherings -

- The Creative Economy event in June was well-attended, had an excellent panel, and good energy. It was agreed this topic should be considered for a follow-up event. Hannah is interested in writing a My Turn highlighting the event and its content.
- Marlo has informed Nancy that he will not be able to participate in a Waste Management event this fall.
- Brainstorm of future topics
 - **Biosphere:** One well-received topic was our biosphere. "This is the basis of everything else! We have to bring this knowledge to everything that we do!" While 'biosphere' is not directly in our master plan, Climate change is, and the biosphere's role in achieving sustainability and resiliency is key. An SGIC event could approach the topic by talking about how biosphere/climate change could affect food security, storm water management, possibly emergency response or preparing for environmental refugees - and ideas on what individuals & our town can do. Greenfield's Planning Department is about to launch into MA-supported vulnerability and resiliency studies. It was agreed that this topic would require a fair amount of preparation and would likely not happen until next year.
 - **Library:** There was discussion about the possibility of a factual and neutral event on the library before the election, but it was agreed this was risky and it was decided Nancy will write a My Turn instead, particularly focused on how the library project is clearly supported by the Master Plan.

- Social Capital: There was discussions around social capital and how that could be incorporated into an event topic. There was some desire by many on promoting civility and reducing divisiveness. Positively Greenfield Facebook Group was mentioned as a potential partner. They have a large following (2900) and Hannah suggested organizing a meet-up for the group to coincide with an SGIC event and/or use their Facebook page to spread the word about our Community Gatherings.

MOTION: MJ made a motion that Nancy write a My Turn highlighting the new library and its connection to the Master Plan, and Hannah write a My Turn on the Creative Economy event, and that both would circulate drafts to the committee before submission. Mike seconded. All voted in favor. It was also suggested that Hannah have a draft ready for the next meeting so we can plan to include any future events that are decided on.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Oct 14, 5:30-7pm, JZ Center: Smart Growth America coming to talk about Opportunity Zoning – possible grant funding for a Greenfield/Montague Collaboration –

NEXT SGIC MEETINGS:

Thursday Oct 24

Thursday Nov 21

Thursday Dec 19

(NOTE November and December meetings are on the THIRD Thursday to avoid the holidays)

Meeting Adjourned 6:30pm