

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

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday 7/23/2020, 5:00-6:30pm

Attending: Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, , Hannah Rechtschaffen, Carole Collins, Phil Elmer, Marlo Warner, Jacob Frank, Mike Pattavina, Jay Lord, Tara Kurland **Absent:** MJ Adams **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato
Guest: Lindsay Rowe, Bob Williford

5:03 pm Hannah called meeting to order

Introductions/Updates

- Jay – Green River swimming area is a delight! Folks are diverse and happy.
- Michael – At the Deerfield River there are lots of people out tubing and trying to get cool.
- Tara - They normally love the Green River recreation area, but have been avoiding crowded places. The Green River road during the week has been a great spot. From an environmental perspective it makes sense to not have lots of people, but from an equity perspective, how do you get people connected to the environment?
- Hannah - Working on conversations around people leaving cities and moving to local areas. What is the shift? Will people move from cities or will they just rent to others? How do we continue to support locally and put attention to the local economy? Where are we going?
- Marlo - DPW is busy. Appreciative for compliments on the Green River area. Biggest updates: Main Street project looks very favorable for MassDOT to get on the TIP. Wisdom Way has been moved up on the TIP. TIP process - Greenfield pays for engineering and state/federal funds pay for reconstruction. Nash's Mill Bridge is open for use. The downside is that the Anerobic Digester has taken a negative turn. Greenfield's financials for construction are off from the initial phase. The DPW is supporting the COVID-19 efforts and doing lots behind the scenes.
- Nancy - Energy Park volunteers have stepped up and made the needs of the people who hang out there known. Ginny Desorgher has secured portapotties and wash stations for those who need them. Tree Committee is working on a new list for DPW to make tree choices. Almost 100% of recommended trees are native to the area and it now has a piece on the contribution to ecosystem and habitat, including caterpillars, butterflies, moths, pollinators, birds, mammals. Nancy will send URL to include in minutes (<https://www.greenfieldtreecommittee.org/tree-selection>). The library landscaping committee will use it.
- Jacob - Glad to see local world opening up, with outdoor and indoor dining in respectful and safe ways.
- Carole - Working on social capital idea. It's fascinating to see the ways the social systems need to be remade and hope it's remade in a better way. This is an amazing opportunity to direct them to a more liveable and vibrant way.
- George - Symbolic of sustainability that we can now use reusable bags. This is great to see. A small sign of coming out of the pandemic.
- Phil - They chose a site for the Fire Station/Safety Complex - corner of Wells and Main Street. It got a strong positive vote. The open air market was not a big enough location and now we will have a lot of construction down there. A police presence downtown would be a good thing. Highland Park has deteriorated and in Sustainable Greenfield they talk about it being used in many contexts.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Carole made a motion to accept the minutes – Seconded by Marlo. Passed unanimously.

Connectivity Survey

Hannah is still waiting on survey responses. So far they show a good map of connectivity among the group. Hannah will send out the survey results soon. Obvious gaps include connections to the Youth commission, Greenfield Redevelopment Authority, and the Board of Registrars of Voters. George highlighted the importance of increasing connections to the Youth Commission especially during the pandemic, noting that we were lucky to have Jacob on our committee. Penny Ricketts has been our contact on the Commission. Please contact Hannah with ideas on other ways to have the survey to be helpful.

GCTV Outreach for mini-documentary

Phil pitched the idea of stories about the local restaurants and how they're coping with COVID to his contact at GCTV, but got no positive response. There is concern this group does not have the expertise to put something like this together. The outdoor restaurant spaces also seem underutilized, maybe due to the weather. Phil is willing to interview people with his iphone and post on Facebook.

Discussion continued on how the committee can help engage the public either in a big event or a smaller consumable discussion.

CDBG

Lindsay Rowe presented updated on the City's CDBG funded activities. The 2017 grant year is mostly completed. The last project is the lift at the Garden Cinema which should be completed shortly. The 2018 grant year has several housing rehab projects that are in construction or in the works. We've also leveraged USDA Housing Preservation money to do 4 additional homes. In 2019 grant year funds have funded the Microenterprise loans for businesses impacted by COVID. Also the Hope Street Sidewalks construction and West Street reconstruction engineering have been completed. In Housing Rehab, we identified some projects to move forward. In Social Services the Food Pantry is half way through their grant and has some additional needs due to COVID. The Council on Aging and LifePath projects hit some bumps as the Senior Center is closed due to COVID-19. The COA director has decided to cancel the programming and return the funding. Therefore, we're having a Public Hearing to discuss repurposing funds to the Food Pantry. The Public Hearing was supposed to be directly after this meeting; however there seems to be an issue with the posting of the meeting and it will be delayed.

Announcements

Phil said the garden tour was a great success and thank you to all who came.

Next Meeting - August 27, 5 pm via Zoom.

Phil - Move to adjourn, Carole second. Unanimous

Adjourn at 6 pm