

Town of Southampton
Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 via Zoom

Members present: D. von Lehsten (DVL), G. Berk (GB), T. Brolin (TB), J. Ewing (JE), J. Burmeister (JB1), L. Arthur (LA), S. Hunnewell (SH), M. Lieberman (ML), K. Allen (KA), J. Barrows (JB),

Non-members present: Councilman R. Martel (CRM), C. Fetten (CF), P. Godfrey (PG), L. Tabori (TL), L. Vosilla (LV)

Meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM. Meeting minutes from March 2, 2021 were accepted.

Progression and Discussion of 400+ Components

General Discussion Overview, as expanded below: **Gas Leaf Blowers; Potential Law Update:** DVL awaiting a conference with Councilman Bouvier for a date for Work Session which would be followed by Public Hearing. Paula do you know of any date? PG no I will follow up. **Ban on the sale of helium filled balloons – Public Hearing April 13:** DVL – PG Public hearing is on for May 11. DVL do we have a time? PG 1pm TB all board members need to come out, we need as many as we can get. Is the Public Hearing in person? PG no via Zoom. TB how do we sign up to speak, call the office or show up? GB there's a link to sign up on the town's website within the clerk's portal. TB there will be people there who will speak against it, we need to describe the process and notify all our contacts. DVL Tip can you give us talking points. JE link it to the zoom. PG it will be available a few days before the meeting. TB I can include how to get to the link with the talking points. **Change to NYS stretch goal Town code update to create energy conservation building code for commercial property development:** ML F. Zappone and I spoke with the coordinator for NYSEERDA's, there are four paths to compliance. An applicant submits a building application and must adhere to Town law & NYS building code. If we adopt the NYS stretch code, rather than defaulting to the NYS building code, they would need to adhere to the NYS stretch code. NY Stretch - four paths to compliance institutes a higher HERS rating for smaller homes, making it harder for compliance. Nearly impossible for smaller rehabbed homes. So we are thinking of keeping a single path to compliance for large homes and drop the other three which is okay by NYSEERDA but perhaps have 4 paths for smaller rehabbed homes. The question is Rehab how do we define it? NYSEERDA has their definition. The cost should even out after five years. DVL do you have a timeline? ML we need to figure it out, I have a meeting scheduled for Friday and we will go to the drawing board with NYSEERDA. The timing to adopt and the political impact is something we are aware of, we are a leader and we could miss out on funding. LA I just retro fitted my house; you're more than welcome to use me as a test case if it helps. ML It's a word game not a numbers game. 50% altered full renovation, NYSEERDA would actually work as they should upgrade. Rehabbing a kitchen wouldn't do more. The question is where is it more efficient and where does it go in our code? GB there is some progress. ML lots to think about. JE what's the difference between HERS vs stretch? ML compliance; small homes it's different – stringent, (more energy efficient), more expense for the homeowner. JB it's a complicated equation; impact, selling, upgrading, it's not simple performance base, there are set goals and we need to find ways to achieve the goals. It cannot be worked on quickly and should be done holistically. **Battery storage code amendment:** ML code was adopted, fee should be in place, and we're moving forward, working on the on-line battery storage application. GB The planning board just saw an application for a commercial battery storage facility in Riverside. **CCA and other energy Projects:** LA CCA offers two parallel tracks; competitive bidding power supply which is has stalled due to LIPA's extra fees. Long term contracts we can make an argument to the Public Service Commission (PSC) but we need additional information. If LIPA won't give it to us we are asking Brookhaven Town to join our FOIL request, otherwise we think LIPA will deny it. The other parallel is Community Generated Distribution (CGD). F. Zappone will be bringing it to a Work Session, the program takes immediate advantage. CF, JS, FZ & CCA Admin have been working to look at solar array, we are hoping to have an agenda by next week. The town staff JS & CF understand solar array, every megawatt, how much revenue for lease payment, it's a tool on how to evaluate what makes sense and what doesn't. We are revamping Tri-Energy and working on four grant programs. Application is deep and what we're doing for reintroduction for Tri-Energy. CF – great the Student Climate Action group is excited and ready to help. There are 12 different student chapters and they have great synergy. GB the battery storage application in Riverside includes an agreement with LIPA & subscribers opting in as well as a solar array. LA CGD program we want developers to bring projects to us, develop more money coming to us than going to LIPA. The town might not get the lease payment but will reap the benefits. **Kelp Update:** DVL Zoom meeting

went well. I'd like to know if the Board agrees we should move ahead, not just with our committee but have the Town Board sign the petition, which would create more pressure behind it. CRM J. Bouvier was going to present to the Town Board. GB we need to get Kelp to a larger audience, it's on everyone's mind. **Plastic Waste – Producer Responsibility:** DVL two petitions circulating that would force producers to take care of their own waste, is there anything the Town Board is willing to put on? Would Southampton TB help to sign the petitions? CRM specific producers. GB not just plastic but all recyclables, it's a large issue and doesn't exclude newspapers. Small newspapers are suffering and if legislation is proposed it could hurt them financially. DVL support the basic idea behind it. **Pesticides – Status SH Town? New Legislation?** DVL nothing can be done locally, it's a big subject but we have to reduce pesticides, shall we get involved again? What does state legislation say and what can we do? Homeowners don't know the damage; education is needed along with strong support from the Town Board. Is the state level allowing or not allowing, are landscapers not keeping up with it? LA Tip updating a plan to make its way through in the mean while we should create a website for Sustainability for all the various items that are important for people to understand, the quality of life and have the cost funded by the website, make it self-funding. I will speak with CF offline and see if we can move forward. CRM I agree the public has no clue, it's very important. ML consider lobbying Assemblyman Thiele, put pressure on him to get it to the state. DVL we need to know exactly what we want, permit – do we have a right to restrict. ML look at other states; municipalities. GB Drawdown focusing on this shouldn't they? DVL if Drawdown has it together we will relinquish it to them. JB there is a list of pesticides it's a high research database and has good and bad ones listed. **Climate Emergency Declaration (CED):** DVL what is the feel of the Board. CRM I defer to CJB, it has not been discussed with the Town Board. LA we need to have a discussion so that the Board knows. LIPA denied appeals and the Board aggressively perused it, asking them to act but the leadership isn't being aggressive to a point. Town Board will be criticized, CED needs teeth. TB how serious are you about climate change? We sit here spinning our wheels. CRM we need to be educated. LT I believe the declaration does give the Board teeth, we didn't have it before. It's not addressing a specific issue, but using the declaration as part of turning all vehicles into electric only is a good tool or weapon. Towns want to be able to act on all challenge

1. EDUCATION

- a. Town Employees
- b. Homeowners and Other Residents
- c. Business Owners
- d. Primary School Education
- e. Educational signage
- f. Food Production & Consumption
- g. Outreach

2. WATER

- a. Regional Clean Water Coalition
- b. Surface Water Quality
- c. Education
- d. Regulated Water Conservation
- e. Water Treatment and Reuse
- f. Landscape Management
- g. Drinking Water Quality
- h. Groundwater Protection
- i. Stormwater Management
- j. Wetlands Protection
- k. Floodplains
- l. Planning and Emergency Mgmt

3. ECONOMICS

- a. Sustainability Index
- b. Green Business Development
- c. Resource Sharing
- d. Affordable Housing
- e. Sustainable Economy

4. LAND USE

- a. Climate Action Plan
- b. Land Use

- c. Open Space Preservation
- d. New Open space
- e. Biomass Preservation
- f. Environmental Restoration
- g. Neighborhood Pattern and Design
- h. Heat Island Effect

5. TRANSPORTATION & AIR QUALITY

- a. Idling Reduction
- b. Bicycle
- c. Complete Streets
- d. Demand – Reduce VMT
- e. Public Transportation
- f. Parking
- g. Reduced Emissions Alt Fuel
- h. Neighborhood Pattern and Design
- i. Resilient Infrastructure

6. ENERGY / CARBON

- a. Long Term Energy Planning
- b. Energy and Carbon *TB hoping to talk to J. Bouvier. We need to get back to long term goal, like hiring a sustainability coordinator . Otherwise we won't meet the big picture. We need to decide on a strategic approach.*
- c. Clean Energy Renewable
- d. Energy and Carbon Reduction
- e. Education –

7. GREEN BUILDING

- a. Sustainable New Construction
- b. Green Building Education.
- c. Water Efficiency in Buildings

- d. Heat Island Effect - Roofs
- 8. WASTE**
 - a. Municipal Facility Recycling
 - b. Comprehensive E Waste Recycling
 - c. Plastic Recycling
 - d. Organic Waste
 - e. Waste Education
 - f. School Recycling/Trex
 - g. Materials Exchange
 - h. Paper
 - i. Building waste
 - j. Hazardous Waste
 - k. Product Stewardship
 - l. Long Term Waste Planning
- 9. QUALITY OF LIFE**
 - a. Promotion of Physical Activity
 - b. Local Food
 - c. Air Quality
 - d. Facade Improvement
 - e. Education
 - f. Emergency Preparedness
- 10. STEWARDSHIP**
 - a. Trail Preservation -
 - b. Historic Places
 - c. Fisheries
 - d. Nutrients in Environment
 - e. Education Vacant Land
 - f. Forest and Vegetation

***** Meeting was adjourned at 5:07PM. Please be advised that our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 4:00PM, location TBD***

Additional 2021 Meeting Dates: June 6th, July 6th, Aug 3rd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 7th