

Town of Southampton

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 via Zoom

Members present: D. von Lehsten (DVL), G. Berk (GB), T. Brolin (TB), J. Ewing (JE), J. Burmeister (JB1), S. Hunnewell (SH), K. Allen (KA), S. Smith (SS), J. Barrows (JB)

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

Meeting was called to order at 4:05PM. Meeting minutes from April 6, 2021 were accepted.

Progression and Discussion of 400+ Components

General Discussion Overview, as expanded below: **Gas Leaf Blowers:** DVL John any update? CJB work session was not successful for obtaining a co-sponsor. After the helium gets passed, then we go to the gas blowers. DVL ok, timing would be after the 5/11/21 meeting. CJB I'm opting for two Public Hearings then looking for a vote on 5/25/21. JE why is this difficult, is there no support? CJB the board is afraid of hurting small businesses. JE would it help to write to the board members? CJB absolutely, we are pushing hard to get the state assembly and senate legislation to support it, legislation is positive; it's in committee. I don't understand the resistance to it, it's a big issue and we have had heavy comments to answer questions. **Ban on the Safe of Helium Filled Balloons – Public Hearing May 11:** CJB the term commercialization has been found in other similar legislation the supervisor might bring it up, be ready to respond. DVL should we have people write to the Town Board? TB sent out a request to his contacts a few days ago to write to the board. Have you seen any? CJB yes including a political group. TB I sent out a reminder today, but you can't sign up yet, Paula is that right? PG yes. DVL various groups can they write in? GB I can ask individuals but as an organization probably not. TB use what I sent you. CJB this will be the last zoom Town Board meeting, the next evening meeting will be with people and they will want to speak to the board, be prepared to answer the questions I outlined. TB ask everyone to speak and pass it on to their friends. I will speak to the questions. CJB the negative was from King Kullen. TB the letter stated legislation would ban all balloons, I will try and find a way to let them know it only effects helium. CJB just not to use helium and not to use Mylar balloons this shouldn't impede their ability to sell balloons. TB legislation doesn't prohibit Mylar balloons, just Mylar balloons filled with helium. **Change to NYS stretch goal Town code update to create energy conservation building code for commercial property development:** CJB I do not have a stretch update, we've been working on solar code. We have requested proposals for CDG to be over at the NS landfill. We have received over 40 responses, most areas that have been ID are landfill sites for solar arrays. DVL how many sites? CJB six we looked at, but there is more, two years ago we did a review of historic land for the town and identified sites were we can get developers to pay for the remediation in order to put an array up. Lease to the developer and the percentage we get we can reinvest in Sustainable projects and pass on credits to residents, it doesn't cost us anything. JE developers are going to be responsible for remediation? CJB it depends on what is being accepted, written into the contract. **Pesticides:** DVL, there's nothing much we can do except go to B. Fleming. NYS controls the pesticides. CJB it's regulated by state, it's an ongoing battle with the DEC due to strong lobbyists that caused problems, it's a clever approach. KA isn't it regulated by state with stringent neighbor notification, there has been several bad experiences, flooded lawn with pesticides and ended up with dead fish. CJB good point, it has to do with Code Enforcement. Licensing review board found 240 licensed landscapers and were working to create a process, stickers on vehicles licensed in the town; the same would help the work with pesticides one good thing might create another good thing. There's support from landscapers who get undercut from landscapers outside of the town and this may be the way to do it even with the leaf blower's legislation. Good public education & outreach, it's a big piece coming forward and do it one at a time. KA this is sitting in senate cycling through committees and assembly are you tied into it John? CJB

I'm tied in but not as strongly as I can. I'm also looking at manufacturers response act – making the manufacturer be responsible for packaging; those who have \$1MM or more in business. It's a good start. DVL one question is the Shinnecock Nation doing anything regarding pesticides? SS not formally yet. DVL keep pressing for it, your land is surrounded by water. SS the Tribal Government doesn't apply pesticides like it used to, we use a company that uses a garlic base. LT pesticides are destroying bees, birds and is a danger for little feet on grass. We also put that into our own bodies. CJB I detect a shift. **Climate Emergency Declaration:** DVL any update? CJB I haven't seen it yet. **Kelp** Assemblyman Thiele and Senator Kaminsky support the campaign. CJB working with oyster farmers who were offered development rights for CPF land acquisitions; CPF has identified properties that can be used for agriculture, in a number of places, Trustees are supportive, I don't see a problem of getting it through. DVL oyster farms own 200 to 300 acres underwater, is it still legal? Its' going to be interesting. KA is there any traction required upgraded septic system? CJB IA systems yes for new constructions on a volunteer bases, there is a rebate available to help offset the cost. To date we have paid more than \$1.7m in rebates to home owners on the water. The town requires IA systems for all new construction and major renovations in high water priority areas (those closest to surface waters). Effective July 1, Suffolk County will require IA systems in all new construction and major renovations.

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
- 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 4:49PM. Please be advised that our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 4:00PM, location TBD***

Additional 2021 Meeting Dates: June 1st, July 6th, Aug 3rd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 7th.