



TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Electronic

Northeast Harbor

Approved 10/15/2020

Members Present:

Phil Lichtenstein, Chair

Dennis Shubert

Sydney Roberts Rockefeller

Gordon Beck

Kathy Miller

Ellen Kappes

Meeting convened at 1630

1. The committee recognized the efforts that Kathy Miller with the help of Sydney contributed to creating Trash Talk.
2. The group discussed the complications of collecting universal waste and household hazardous waste during a pandemic. The collection is September 26. Details:
https://www.mtdesert.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf931/f/uploads/9-1-2020-hhww_flier-fy-21_0.pdf
3. The group discussed their concern about the slow progress on restarting our solid waste program with Maine Coast Recycling and subsequent operators. The Chair will seek clarity from Mr. Smith
4. Gilman Electric, an electrical equipment wholesaler, will inventory the town's interior lighting fixtures with the goal of replacement with more efficient fixtures qualifying for Efficiency Maine rebates.
5. The group reviewed our experience with electric vehicle recharging at the charger near the Yachtman's Building at the marina. We concluded that investing in vehicle chargers supports the Town's efforts to improve sustainability and promote economic development. The marina unit earned \$593.43 dollars with the actual cost of electricity delivered cost \$94.00. The cost of the chargers and the system are not included in total cost.

6. Electrification of town vehicles: Mr. Beck provided a brief update on the opportunities to avoid the use of fossil fuels by the municipal services. The High School anticipates a funded electric school bus. Given the pattern of local school bus use, an electric bus is ideal if economically possible. In addition forward thinking towns are purchasing electric police cruisers that have become practical because of their pattern of use and very low maintenance costs offsetting higher initial investment.
7. The Chair discussed implied criticism of the TMD sustainability efforts by a local blogger. Also, he discussed relationships with local environmental efforts. All pledged to make more effort to report out the Town's efforts to like-minded organizations and individual.

NEXT MEETING: October 15, 1630.

The chair reviewed our goals and progress to date:
Goals for the Sustainability Committee

1. How to Reduce or Modify Energy Consumption for Town of Mount Desert Infrastructure including the following Town owned Buildings:

Town office, MDES, Wastewater Treatment Plants, Highway Garage/Bus Garage, NEH Marina and Visitor Center, Fire Houses

- A. Lighting/Heating/Cooling
- B. Exterior Lighting / still drafting outdoor lighting standards ordinance
- C. EV Charging Stations
- D. Solar Power Purchase agreements / Solar farms
- E. Input on designs for new buildings or upgrades
- F. Energy Audits

2. Town owned Vehicles:

A. How to reduce Energy usage and purchase EV or Hybrid including the following:

Dump Trucks/Plow vehicles, Garbage Trucks, School Buses, Police Cruisers, Small Pick-up Trucks used by the Marina, Code Enforcement/Accessing

3. Planning Board:

- A. Create Sustainability/Green Building standards for new construction or renovations
- B. Outdoor Lighting Ordinance article was pulled from this year's Warrant due several issues.

4. Solid Waste

- A. How to Reduce tonnage to Fiberight
- B. Encourage use of composting
- C. Encourage restaurants to create less packaging for to-go foods & drinks

5. Work with other area Municipalities to share resources and possibly a shared Sustainability Coordinator