



TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Thursday, April 11, 2019

TOWN MEETING HALL

Northeast Harbor

Members Present:

Phil Lichtenstein, Chair

Kathy Miller

Gordon Beck

Dwight Lanpher

Dennis Shubert

Ellen Kappes

Sydney Roberts Rockefeller

Excused:

John Macauley

Warren Smith

Jesse Hartson

Meeting convened at 1600.

1. The Chair briefly reviewed the proposed single use plastic bag ordinance discussion at the Warrant Committee. Expressed concerns about fines were resolved with discussion of processes involved in and outside of the ordinance.
2. Turf and Plantings Care: The committee extensively discussed the issue of environmentally sensitive care of Town properties, specifically turf and plantings. The group noted that our community includes accomplished professionals who maintain gardens and turf successfully with minimal potentially harmful insecticides, herbicides and fertilizing chemicals. The group concluded that the Town would benefit from a Town Policy that would guide all concerned groups to the best trade off of environmental sensitivity and appearance. Therefore, the committee proposes that:

The BOS consider a Town Policy guiding care of Town owned and maintained turf and plantings that considers sensitivity to environmental harm and benefits as well as appearance.

The committee offers to organize a presentation/discussion for the BOS as desired.

3. The committee discussed the present opportunity for the Town to benefit from the Efficiency Maine small business/government rebate program that requires a baseline lighting survey by April 30 and installation of new equipment by May 31st.
4. The committee discussed likely next solar installations for the Town. The site of the sanitary sewer pump station in Otter Creek requires more study.
5. A committee member outlined concerns about the proposed sale of Emera Maine to another utility. The sequential sales of our telephone company highlight the concerns and impact on customers.
6. NOTE: Invasive Species Forum II is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th, 1400-1600 at Neighborhood House, NEH.
7. NOTE: Climate Change Communication Workshop will be held at NEH Library, Mellon Room, May 1, 1300-1630. Co-sponsored by Maine Climate Table and A Climate to Thrive.
8. The next Sustainability Committee meeting is May 16 at 1600.