

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee  
Minutes, July 19, 2021**

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present:** (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, John Solomon, Jane Ward, Rob Wilson

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:**

Dr. Paul Canniff, Clay Schoffield

**Others in Attendance:** (On Zoom)

Alex Bowe, Cynthia Cole, Gordon Starr, Town Council Liaison, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order:**

Peter Doyle called the July 19, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:06 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

My name is Peter Doyle; this is the 19th day of July, 2021. This is the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee. I would like to welcome two new members, Jane Ward and Clay Schofield to our committee.

Peter Doyle informs committee members that normally scheduled Infrastructure and energy Committee meeting on October 11, 2021 will be moved to October 18, 2021. Town offices are closed October 11, 2021 in recognition of Columbus Day Holiday.

Peter Doyle informs the Committee members about a cape wide meeting of Energy Committees sponsored by “Creating a Responsible Environment for the Cape & Islands” (CARE). Peter Doyle is not sure he wants to attend, somebody who's interested, he can send the link.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion moved by Rob Wilson to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by Rob Wilson to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting. 2nd by Jane Ward, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion moved by John Solomon to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting. 2nd by Rob Wilson, four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

## Old Business

Regarding sustainability position. Postpone further discussion until September October. We can prepare letter to Town Council; why we think there's a need for the Town to have a sustainability position. One thing I would like the committee to consider "is it enough for us to just think in the view of the Town of Barnstable or should we think of the Cape?" I would think that some towns are not going to have a sustainability position they wouldn't have the money. But does it make sense for us to try to make it bigger? Members would like to see the position housed in the office next to the Town Manager; it has to be a fairly important position. Peter Doyle suggests each one of us contact their Town Councilor and see what the individual Councilors position is and report back to the committee in September. Is there any kind of position like this in the Cape Cod Commission now? Some type because they put out a climate action plan that I'm sure you've all read.

Maybe we could come up with a different Job title. I agree with you about the county, you know, the towns have always been independent, so I think it's better to have position within the town. But I think if you don't have a council or administration that sort of excited or interested in sustainability. I think you got to call it something else. And I don't know what that is.

Peter Doyle updates committee members on the Green Community Status. Peter says he had a chat with Property and Risk Management Director David W. Anthony; he is working on the energy audit. He is going to have a chat with Mark Ells, Town Manager about the stretch code issue and what they want to do now that the building commissioner's appeal has been unsuccessful. So we're just in a holding pattern, I can check in with David Anthony sometime in September or October. I think that's pretty much where we are.

Just to throw that out there they even numbered precincts, 2, 4, 6 and 8 are up for reelection in November. Precinct map is on the Town website under maps, if you have trouble let me know. We need somebody from precinct eight. Debra S. Dagwan is timing out; she can only serve three four year terms.

John Solomon provides committee members with an update of the recycling subcommittee. The recycling subcommittee met and developed an action plan. Cynthia Cole took the lead and came up with a great action plan for our initiative at the transfer station, trying to get more folks to separate their food waste for composting. Members don't want to try to roll that out until the fall. Summer is probably the most difficult time to get people to start dealing with food waste burden. A lot of the challenges involved in collecting food waste really become more difficult in the summer. I think we do better to really start this push at the transfer station in the fall. The other we've been doing is we've also been focusing on commercial establishments.

The Department of Environmental Protection is planning on lowering the production limit or the threshold at which it required that food waste be separated. That threshold is going down to a half ton per week. We're also focusing on reaching out to commercial establishments to try to get them to separate the food waste. We met with Black Earth and they have agreed that they will come in to Barnstable and collect. They'd like to have at least a dozen clients on board to make it worth the trip, they seem eager to do it.

John Solomon says he contacted Thomas McKean, Director of Health Department and he provided contact information of food service establishment in Barnstable. There are about 180 of them that have

a permit for serving food. Thought is that we would do some type of outreach, either by mail or email. Explaining that starting in the fall, establishments producing half ton or more of food waste will be required to separate out food waste. Black Earth will be available to pick this stuff up. In an effort to get those commercial established on board with food waste separation.

What are the public schools doing? I think some of them are already composting and are collecting it. And I think Jane Ward was going to take the lead with the schools. Jane Ward spoke with a staff member at Sturgis West and she said she was sure that the students there would be very excited, that Sturgis is a magnet school. They don't have a cafeteria. So the kids either bring their lunch or they go out to eat, but they do have food waste or compostable waste that gets thrown out. She didn't think it would be a problem at all to get the students interested in separating out compostable lunch waste from non-compostable trash.

There are ways that you can estimate how much food waste is produced based on the number of meals served, and other factors that you can look at. To what extent is a town committee comfortable steering businesses in town towards a particular vendor? The other thing that would like to get input from members on is if we send out a mass communication to the media is it coming from the Infrastructure and Energy Committee and the recycling subcommittee? I do feel that the more that we can make this Town wide initiative we will get a better response. John Solomon believes that the Health Department is fine with Infrastructure and Energy Committee doing this, they don't they don't have any opposition to us doing this. I didn't get the sense that they wanted to get heavily involved themselves.

If Department of Environmental Protection is requiring certain restaurants to recycle who's policing it? I don't think anybody is policing it now. And I think even businesses that are ready, above the threshold current thresholds, I believe, and I think that even the businesses that are above that threshold, Are, are not nobody's enforcing. Part of the issue is you can't enforce something if there isn't anybody who's willing to come and pick it up.

We could reach out to Kari Parcell, Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator Barnstable County Extension. John Solomon says he emails back and forth with her. She didn't know a whole lot about what Department of Environmental Protection is doing but he will continue to keep her in the loop.

Grocery stores have arrangement with local farms food waste is used to feed pigs. The stuff that they're disposing of is in better shape. Restaurants food waste is primarily going right in the landfill.

Jane Ward commends all the fact finding work John Solomon is doing. Jane Ward says this strikes me as a big kind of a chicken and egg issue in some ways, and I feel like we should almost have a summit with representatives from each sector, talking at once rather than kind of playing this game of telephone, because it's a very big deal, you know from what PJ told us the volume is probably around \$144,000 a year that we spend, as a community, to pay for food waste to be shipped off the Cape, mixed in with our trash.

PJ told us what he thought was the percentage of what is at the transfer station that is food waste. I think he said, 13% or so. And with, with the amount we pay per ton. That was around \$140,000 a year. And that amount of contribution to climate change. This may warrant trying to pull all the players into the same place at one time to have a discussion.

Cynthia Cole suggests committee send a letter or an email out to all the stakeholders and the letter would say the recycling committee, along with the Board of Health or whatever department is going to oversee letting them know that there is a services available. That participation is encouraged because all entities producing a half ton or more of food waste will be mandated to separate out food waste from trash steam, and we want to be there to help you. I just think that you're going to get restaurant owners to go to a summit. Cynthia Cole spoke with Elizabeth Wurfbain Executive Director at Hyannis Main Street Business Improvement District and reports that she is very enthusiastic about this, they want to do it in the fall.

Peter Doyle suggests recycling subcommittee might want to ask Thomas A. McKean, Director Health Department if he thinks it would be good to get on the agenda for the Board of Health, becomes a more public process, it's out there, it's, it's transparent, we would get their blessing, which would be good. And then maybe, you know, that it becomes like a partnership.

Jane Ward spoke with a friend, the owner of The Local Juice: a juice bar in Hyannis, one restaurant that is already using Black Earth to pick up their food waste. Cynthia Cole asked owner "How was that working?" They said "it's no problem". The Juice Bar owner could talk to their peers in the Hyannis Main Street area or wherever and say, yeah, it fits in with our philosophy and that it's not a big deal.

Jane Ward asks Peter Doyle if he received the draft that she sent back to you about the suggestion from our committee that we hire a sustainability manager? Peter Doyle will recirculate Jane's letter before next meeting.

The next meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 9, 2021, at 5pm. Some members may not be able to attend. Peter Doyle asked Cindy Dabkowski to quiz the members to see what meeting date in August is best for members to attend. August 9, 2021 or August 23, 2021. Rob Wilson replies it doesn't matter. Alex Bowe replies it doesn't matter. Cynthia Cole replies August 9, 2021 she may not be back from Canada in time for August 23, 2021. Jane Ward replies August 23, 2021. John Solomon replies it doesn't matter.

**Next Meeting:** August 9, 2021 5:00PM | Department of Public Works | Remote Zoom Meeting

**Upcoming Meeting:** September 13, 2021, September 27, 2021, October 11, 2021, October 25, 2021

### **Adjourn**

**Motion** moved Rob Wilson to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:06 PM, 2nd by John Solomon; four members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

### **Documents and Exhibits**

Handout 1: Agenda, July 19, 2021 14, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes May 10, 2021

Handout 3: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes May 24, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes June 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski