

Town of Southampton

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 Southampton Town Hall

Members present: D. von Lehsten (DVL), G. Berk (GB), G. Anthony (GA), T. Brolin (TB), K. Allan (KA), J. Barrows (JB), N. Palumbo (NP)

Non-members present: Councilman J. Bouvier (CJB), M. Haubner (MH), A. Brosnan (AB), D. Reilly (DR), L. Vosilla (LV); Guest: R. Calvert (RC) – Drawdown East End

Meeting was called to order at 4:07 PM. Meeting minutes from December 3, 2019 were accepted.

Progression and Discussion of 400+ Components

General Discussion Overview, as expanded below: RC Thanked the Green Committee for the invitation to provide suggestions for its work in 2020. In preparing, Drawdown met with current/former members of the Committee, staff and Town Board; attended meetings, reviewed meeting minutes; studied components of the Town's Comprehensive Plan; reviewed NYS Climate Smart Communities (CSC), Clean Energy Communities (CEC) programs; studied Project Drawdown and other climate research. We recognize the presumptive nature of our undertaking and we are doing our best to understand the challenges and to make a difference, there are five idea headings: **Work to 12:** Identify consequential ways to reduce and drawdown GHG across all sectors so as to meet yearly targets. The recent IPCC report says urgent and unprecedented change is needed to keep global warming under 1.5C to avoid the worst impacts of the Climate Crisis. This provides a 12-year action window for achieving an annual 8% reduction of Greenhouse Gas. **Reinvigorate Sustainability 400+:** Plan appears to need prioritizations and additional leadership. Key features and tools are absent including CAP; Permanent Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES); energy and carbon audits for municipal facilities and Town. More urgent need to protect the broad interdependent health of the region. **Improve Operational Capacities of the Committee:** The plan charges the Green Committee with the Who, What and Why and is expected to prioritize and determine active tasks. The Town Board provides primarily the How – Directives, resources for implementation and require reporting and sustainable municipal operations. Town staff provides the Who and when, administers the plan by implementation and tracking. Evidence suggests the committee is disinclined to determine macro analysis, prioritization and high value active tasks. The committees, approach to identify actions includes "do the achievable" and work on topics of interest to members. These approaches may supersede the identification and evaluation of actions and more measureable impact to meet urgency, provide return on investment, identify alternatives, and ultimately assist the Town to implant its plan objectives. CSC and 400+ plan are not coordinated as well as they could be. Absence of The Office of Energy and Sustainability, the plan recommends the Town provide those functions necessary to ensure implementation and administration of the sustainability policies and activities. DVL temptation is for people to be defensive and not look at other ways to meet the town's sustainability goals. The planning department is working on CSC to see what town can accomplish. The town and the volunteer committee doesn't have a lot of manpower. It's a lot to digest. AB what about waste? RC equipment maintenance / disposal is controlled by federal government but is it practiced/enforced? **Current Actions:** Current initiatives is trees. Review the methodology used to identify the problem, solution and objective. Consider by how much and when the solution will impact the environmental considerations and the Climate Crisis. How can the initiative integrate goals and compound outcomes? Project Drawdown identifies Afforestation and Forest Protection as the 15th and 38th, respectively, most consequential actions in the world to reduce GHG. **Use Project Drawdown:** When 400+ was written, climate plans typically identified transportations, agriculture and building energy as 90+% of targets for GHG reductions. Drawdown is a comprehensive plan to reverse the total accumulation of GHG through 80 existing, scientifically and economically determinative worldwide initiatives, 40 initiatives that are directly applicable on the East End and can help prioritize local action: Waste – achieve net zero waste production, 90% emissions worldwide come at point of disposal. Food Waste is 3rd, Solid Waste Management Plan approach to organic waste doesn't reflect the impact potential of food waste and the topic

receives scant attention in 400+. Green Building, Energy and Water - it is estimated that 30-40% of the world's GHG comes from heating and cooling buildings. Every residential / commercial building built today is expected to be on line in 2040. New buildings need to be carbon neutral now or retrofitted later. DVL we are doing solar panel. How much can be done; can we by law? JB programs like HERS have not. RC Southampton Community Housing; Affordable housing proposing set objectives, positive net energy and water. Every new building either carbon neutral now or it will need to be retrofitted. Net positive building, technology and services. TB goal is for the town to be carbon neutral by 2040. NP transfer of energy supply. DR elephant in the room is how we do these things – urgency how can it function as it's never functioned before. TB it's an amazing plan, but how? DVL love to do it all; rules and legislation and we are working already, what do we have to do to get rules? How do we get it legislated? TB The sub committee came up with goals for 2020 but not how carbon neutral for 2040. Prepare a CAP but we can't figure it out here or at the town. Others have resources, subcommittees. CJB all should be questioning how to get carbon neutral by 2040. GB what you just described is a document we need to address to the committee and CJB. TB no agreement on paper; additional input from RC & DR to get together and hash it out to see what we can come up with. DVL points for CJB 2020 plan for our document; add input and extend it a little bit depends on what the town can do. Its strategic extending on broader sense. TB we need a person now, hire someone to talk with the politicians. Try a different approach in smaller groups. RC I agree we need CAP but it may not happen this year. AB what would it look like? Outlining prioritizing political actions. Co2 is tipping all areas of interest. TB read CAP Rochester, NY plan; series of questions how did you do it, cost, how many worked on it? Maybe a consulting firm. What is the biggest sources of CO2 in Southampton? KA I agree we need that, consultant with a constructive approach; strategic alliances. KK Agawam Lake according to DEC has an algal bloom plan – Water Committee; house values with 100 people working on it. CJB this is the type of conversation I was hoping to initiate. DVL: We are scheduled to present at Work Session on Jan. 9th, 2020 for Gas Leaf Blowers and Balloons. All are welcome.

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 *GA when homeowners remove solar why not have them donate it to the Town.*
- 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 *MH Ordering seedlings*
Jan. 2nd There is a documentary; The Seeds of Change: it will contain interviews and the Trillion Tree Challenge just to name a few.

**** Meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM. Please be advised that our next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 at 4:00PM in the lower level conference room of Southampton Town Hall.**

Additional 2020 Meeting Dates: Jan 7th & 21^s, Feb 4th & 18th Mar 3rd & 17th, Apr 7th & 21st, May 7th & 19th, June 6th, & 16th, July 7th & 21st, Aug 4th & 18th, Sept 1st, & 15th, Oct 6th & 20th, Nov 17th, Dec 1st & 15th