

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee
Minutes, September 12, 2022**

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)
Peter Doyle, Chair; Jane Ward, Vice Chair, Kathryn Hautanen, Rob Wilson

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:
John Solomon

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)
Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant,

Call to Order:
Peter Doyle, Chair called the September 12, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:05 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:
Approval of minutes postponed to next meeting.

Old Business

Peter Doyle asks Committee members for their thoughts on recording Infrastructure and Energy Committee meetings moving forward. Recorded meetings would then be added to web page. Kathryn Hautanen begins discussion overview of what other Town of Barnstable (TOB) committees are doing. Video Record ONLY (i.e. NO Minutes): 8 Video Record + Written Minutes: 8 Minutes Only: 3

Kathryn Hautanen asks Cindy to ask IT for data on how many people view the videos on web page and how many people view minutes on web page.

Looks like video is definitely 16 out of 19. Members agree it can be awkward to go back through videos to see what was said at a meeting. Easier to just go to minutes.

It is thought that minutes would be a requirement and video would be optional.

Jane Ward thinks Infrastructure and Energy Committee posting good minutes. If citizens are not asking for video, is there a reason we're volunteering to be videoed?

Peter Doyle asks for a motion, Kathryn Hautanen makes motion best not to record Infrastructure and Energy Committee meetings. Jane Ward second the motion, roll call: Peter Doyle -Yes, Kathryn Hautanen -Yes, Jane Ward-Yes, and Rob Wilson - No. Three in favor of NOT recording meetings one opposed. The motion fails

Peter Doyle updates committee members on the status of the Sustainability Position. The town is now doing interviews. There were 58 applicants. Jane Ward asks where the position will sit. It will be somewhere downtown administration. Who will him or her reports to? The town manager? David Anthony is the interviewer. So I'm guessing that means that that position will

come under his department or division. The Risk Assessment Department and David Anthony also at this point, the town's environmental coordinator, if you want to call it that. Curious what does position like that pay for salary? It's a grade 12 which is a pretty good. It's a full time position. 58 applicants is very impressive. That's good news to get a sustainability person wherever they fit in the government. This dedicated position could help move us forward working in some way with David Anthony they're more likely to be an ally or influencer on our efforts to become a green community. There's plenty of work to do and the more people you have, the more grants you can apply for and this is a good time to have people applying for grant money because there's a ton of money out there.

Peter Doyle updates members on the recycling committee. If you have any thoughts about composting or recycling. Reach out to John Solomon and sign up. He's got a whole list of jobs that need a champion.

Jane Ward circulates in different composting groups; she was going to try to pull together a field trip to introduce people to biochar if anybody wants to go please let Jane Ward know. Bob Wells New England Biochar Eastham Company creates Biochar. Right next to the salt marsh Visitor Center and the National Seashore and up the road in Wellfleet, they manufacture the giant furnaces that you can make this biochar in. The furnaces 1500 degrees. They call it pyrolysis rather than burning wood. They burn it under low oxygen and very high temperature and end up with a charcoal like a piece of coral. You look at it and you think it would have some weight to it. It's totally dehydrated. So it's very lightweight, but it's very, very porous. Depending on what you're using it for you make different sizes you make little tiny, half inch or smaller crumbs. If you're going to mix it in with compost or woodchips. It can be used for water treatment it can be used to enhance compost, and it basically absorbs microorganisms and nitrogen and phosphate it can pull out of the water and it also then will lock carbon. That remaining carbon skeleton gets locked into the ground basically forever. And it's getting a lot of press internationally because it's being looked at as a climate change reversal technique. There's talk of grants and being paid for the carbon banks.

Jane Ward bought a small cooker. Have you ever seen the solo stoves? It looks a little bit like that. You can make a small amount at your house.

Peter Doyle discusses the electric lawnmower proposal. Rob Wilson has nothing to report. The focus was to check in with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and see what they are using Cape light compact is also incentivizing electric lawn equipment.

Peter Doyle asks if anyone is familiar with the Lake Placid composter, they call their program Compost for Good and it was actually a father daughter team of engineers that came up with an affordable plan.

The County is investigating the possibility of a central compost site on Cape Cod. Their first priority is to zoom in on a place to do it. And they're looking for a couple of places on Cape Cod.

Members discuss Cape Cod Times article proposal to petition the state legislature to allow the town to prohibit the use of fertilizers. Peter Doyle suggests committee research and then a try to

send a letter to the town council and town manager as we're an advisory committee and advise that the Town of Barnstable to join Orleans in this in this effort to get more of a control over the use of fertilizers. That that would involve talking to the fertilizer companies and see what their take on it is. The other one would be to talk with our schools, golf courses to see what they are doing?

Committee does not want to give up on the green community we have two new town councilors. Committee should look for opportune times to bring Green Communities up again. The new Councilors may be interested. Committee will check in with Gordon Starr and see if there is an interest.

Jane Ward tells committee members about her new septic system. The company is Fuji clean. And it's a septic system that's the same size as the title five one they dug out, and it goes into our same leach field, but it has iron plates that will use electrolysis to precipitate the phosphate for this company. The company has been in business for about four decades selling these around the world. This is the first model of this phosphate removing type that they've installed in this country. They've done a lot of the nitrogen removing tanks, the biggest group at the end of Long Island, which is very similar to Cape Cod in terms of challenges. It has a charged plate and then it has an air circulator and the air pump that circulates the material and I don't know the proprietary mix that processes the nitrogen, but at least in Australia, they're oppressed enough because they have a huge multi year drought still going on, but they allow the output to be considered rainwater for irrigation. We got it under a grant. We didn't pay for the tank but we paid for everything else. We paid for the installation. They will do the testing monthly for two years to see if it lives up to its marketing. The testing should start any day now. The hardest part. Not too surprising is the paperwork. Because this is an innovative alternative septic and had to be approved not only by our health department, but by the State Department of Environmental Protection, and they are short staffed and that lasted for months in the winter, we were hoping to get it put in the spring, just as finished a few weeks ago, and the paperwork is now going in it has to be recorded on our deed. And the final paperwork with 20 checks offs and letters and certifications has to go back to the state. And then what happens is monthly for two years, Mass Tech will test they test 3000 of these, not this make but alternative, innovative septic systems around the Cape. So they've got the system down, they've got the software; they've got the right chemistry. And if they'll decide if it's, if it lives up to its marketing claims, and whether it's in a temporary approval status or a pilot approval status, the previous model only reduced the nitrogen. That one is a little further ahead on the approval process as far as the state but we thought it was important we live 20 feet from Long Pond in Centerville. It's been closed each of the last six to eight years for at least a few weeks because of cyanobacteria. The cost differential between innovative alternative septic and the current types of systems? Nobody could give a straight answer. Because received it under a grant, don't really have the totals. Jane will have a better idea for committee in a month or two. Jane Ward can give material because there's so many of these that have been put in Long Island. The SUNY Stony Brook, environmental engineering department has worked a lot with it. There is quite a bit of publications out of there. They stacked up pretty well against four or five other systems that were being tested in Suffolk County. Japanese have very densely populated landscape. They rely on their marine economy this is very important to them.

Sara Wigington MassTech is the person who oversees all the phosphate projects. So if you're interested in an innovative alternative system, she'd be a good person to reach out to.

Peter Doyle asks for a Motion to adjourn. Kathryn Hautanen makes a motion to adjourn the September 12, 2022 Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:05PM, Jane Ward Second. Four members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2022 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: November 14, 2022, November 28, 2022, December 12, 2022

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, September 12, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski