



Community Resilience Working Group

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm via Zoom platform.

Members Present: Christiane Turnheim (Agricultural Advisory Committee), Stacia Donahue (Planning Board), Sharon McCarthy (BOH); Ellen Leicher (Citizen Member), Phobe von Conta (Citizen Member); Alexandra Cronin (Citizen Member), Arianna Thornton (Student Member) and C. Ron Ostberg (Citizen Member)

Staff Present: Christopher Ryan (Director of Community and Economic Development)

Others Present: None

Convene and Preamble

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm. Mr. Ryan read the preamble and turned the meeting over to the Chair.

New Chair Discussion

No takers at this point. Mr. Ryan described what would be ideal in a Chair. Is hoping that a new member can take the ball and run with it. Organize and lead the meetings, check on the subgroups, guide the discussions, and even possibly take meeting minutes (see below for additional commentary).

Apple Country Subgroup Update

Mr. Ryan reported Apple Country sub group has done several site visits in and around the community. There is discussion of finding 'test sites' that areas could be reviewed in real life.

Ron Ostberg reported that Apple Country needs to have some way finding points or goals. Our report also has to tie into the State's report and goals. The third item he reported on was the website for the apple country project. He noted it's a good resource for the information we need. New England landscapes project was one of the items he sites as being a good resource.

Mr. Ostberg noted that the outreach group should be able to sort/organize the resources and take advantage of the work that has already been done.

Sharon McCarthy noted the outreach done by the Sudbury Valley Trust? Is excellent and something to look to model.

Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that the Apple Country meetings are 'a lot of stuff' and it's hard to get a handle on everything they're doing. She needs to catch up on the material.

Mr. Ostberg noted that hopefully the end outcome of the AC project should be test plots across the town that are trying these various preservation types.

Outreach Subgroup

Mr. Ryan noted the discussions had at the last meeting about HOW to get out the word; text, social media, email. Arianna Thornton (student member) suggested that when we're ready to launch, that send a formed email and ask them to contact 5 additional people in their group. Should be simple; who we are, what we've been doing, and where to contact us to get involved. This is proving to be the easier part.

Maybe the best first step would be blasting out the call to action. Mr. Ryan requested that we help him craft an initial outreach statement. He would like to get this blasted out sooner rather than later to get an infusion of help. Arianna noted that it might be better to just get out there (social media) even if we're posting stuff that is not our own (created by State or EPA or whatever) just to get people connected to us and start driving people back to our group.

Ms. McCarthy noted that with the new administration coming in and Senator Kerry taking over as climate czar that it's probably a really good time to get this launched. She noted that giving people individual actions to do will help.

Discussion of Planning and Staffing

Stacia Donahue noted that we're thin on help and Mr. Ryan noted that we really need a new champion to lead the group forward into the next phases. Everyone was going to look back thru their own channels to see if there's any more human resources available to jump in and help.

Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that the problem with asking for help is that we don't know the help we need. The KLA plans were just so overwhelmingly large.

Ms. Sachs Leicher pulled up a website showing the www.community.massenergize.org website and showed a way that we could possibly find a way to start. Problem being that it costs \$750 to start. However, the group agreed that it was at least a place to start. Better than starting from scratch for sure.

Ms. Sachs Leicher will take on the outreach subcommittee lead in Peter's Kelly-Joseph's absence.

The group resolved to continue leader-less for the time being while we try to find additional bodies to jump in and maybe be the under studies of the current members.

Planning Subgroup

Ms. Donahue reviewed the minimal progress that has been made in this effort so far. Only one meeting that got cut short by zoom bombing. Mr. Ryan reviewed the spreadsheet for the 'Plan Chapters' highlighting the goals, actions, groupings, etc.

Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that HEAC has already completed some of these items so these just need to be shared in the right place and used for?

Christiane Turnheim suggested that putting the High Priority items in the forefront. We need to start with one and get the ball rolling.

Ms. Sachs Leicher said that goals need to include what people can do themselves to help achieve the goal as a town.

Ms. Von Conta noted that maybe having an organized task list that can be shared on every platform with the same logo/images that will improve our messaging efforts.

Adjournment

At 8:35 PM, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.