



## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2022

5:00 p.m.

*This meeting was held at the Dunaway Center and via Zoom*

### 1.0 Welcome & Call to Order 5:00 PM

#### 1.1 Roll Call

Members Present: Priscilla Botsford, *Chair*; Pamela Sawyer, *Alternate*; Jane Greene, *Secretary*

Remote: Marjorie Katz, *Vice Chair*; Paul Breen, *Member*; David Nosnik, *Member*

### 2.0 Review of Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2022

Minutes were approved

### 3.0 Ongoing Business

#### 3.1 Water Quality Plan

##### a. Review 3/15 Water Quality Presentation to the Select Board

Priscilla felt that there were good take-aways from the Select Board as well as from members of the audience.

Two takeaways:

1. A member of the public called in and asked about the status of Little Beach.

Priscilla: *Little Beach is not deemed "impaired" - but is on a watchlist. The bacteria in large part is coming from the stormwater run-off from the highly developed areas. That might be an interesting area to look at in terms of trying to come up with solutions, such as vegetative buffers to slow the flow of stormwater run-off. This project could be an opportunity for people who live in the area to get involved in a long-term solution.*

2. Kennebunkport is working on their stormwater management. Their focus is on agriculture and equestrian impact - a different case than Ogunquit. But it's good to take a look to see what kind of reinforcements they've got in their Land Use Office, in terms of engineers, and highly utilized staff.

Priscilla: *We are waiting for next steps on implementation of the 319 Grant and what assistance we will get.*

Margie: *One of the charts is dated from 2013, and that's nine years ago at this point. If you are going to use charts, they should be more recent. I don't know if you can extrapolate 2013 to today.*

Priscilla: *That's a good comment. All of the reports that we've gotten - including the 2020 report, which is what most of our work was based on - included reports from 2013. That's one of the problems. The reports keep getting recycled every year. One thing that I will say about the chart - 85% is Human Land Use and Wildlife 11% - I don't think that wildlife has gone up. If anything, in that chart, the 85% has gotten larger in the watershed, of which we are only 17%. I don't think we have to update the chart in order to come to the same conclusion - which is that we need to manage our stormwater in the town. That's our number one priority in the report. If we do that, it will go a long way in cleaning up the water.*

Paul: *The basis for all this work is that chart. And all you need to do to that chart is some commentary of what you just said - impact of construction, etc. Good if we could have new numbers.*

Priscilla asked if the committee was ready to submit the plan. It has many actionable items in it that the town has already started on. It is a next step to getting the expertise to be able to implement the recommendations.

Priscilla: *They voted unanimously at the Select Board meeting to hire someone for the 319 Grant administration - so that's exciting. I think Acorn is going to get started right away, which is great.*

Discussion was around links within the Water Quality Plan, and why they didn't always open. Problem might have been the difficulty of opening links on a non-Apple device.

Pam and Priscilla offered suggestions for finalizing the look of the WQ Plan. Font needs to be all in one style/color, and any link that is one page can be put in as is, so it is easy to print out. Jane agreed to implement all suggestions.

Priscilla asked if any member was interested in outreach to other towns in the watershed.

Paul: *If you're going to do outreach with other towns, we ought to have set, defined goals of what we want us and them to do together. I wouldn't want to get involved in an open discussion at this point.*

Jane: *I know that I've asked this before, and I know that someone has answered me - but there is a committee of some sort that bridges these towns. Is that correct?*

Pam: *That's correct. There is a steering committee, composed of multiple towns. I think Priscilla is the representative on that committee. I don't know how often they meet, but they are supposed to be discussing the different watershed questions, etc.*

Jane: *Are they active?*

Pam: *They are active, and meet...?*

Priscilla: *Quarterly. Let me think about some actionable items there. It would be really valuable to collaborate with other towns - especially with regards to the Ogunquit River.*

Pam: *There used to be a 319 Grant steering committee back in 2003 or 2006 when it actually started. Maybe we could do some homework and find out when it started and if there's any follow-up there.*

Priscilla said follow-up is important - whether it's the Conservation Commission, or someone else. No follow-up is a lost opportunity.

This was deemed an action item, and Jane agreed to pursue it. She asked when the steering committee meets again. Pam said that she would look at her notes for that information.

Priscilla asked if there were any other comments about the Water Quality Plan from the committee or from the public. There was not. Jane asked if a motion could be made to say that the Plan is done and we are ready to submit.

David made a motion that the discussed changes be made, and the final version be submitted to the Select Board. Paul seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0

### 3.2 Website

a. New updates – David has already posted an article that Priscilla sent him. The article is regarding Native/Non-Native Trees in New England and how they are being affected by climate change. New label is “Climate Tolerant Trees” rather than “Native Trees” [Standards for Selecting Climate Resilient Trees in the Northeast](#)

### 4.0 New Business

**4.1** Table at Native Plant Fair – Suzanne Williams called in with the date, place and time: May 21<sup>st</sup> @ Beach Plum Farm from 10-2. The Sustainability Committee Table will be Native Plants for Erosion Control.

### 5.0 Discuss Committee's Goals

Margie stated that it was important to get back to the committee's mission statement which was around energy related issues - reducing fossil fuel usage and providing the public information about the solar energy program that's available to everybody through Central Maine Power.

Priscilla asked if the information Margie shared about solar energy was on our website. Margie said that she would get David the information regarding signing up for the solar energy program, but she felt that we need to do more to disseminate the information.

How to get the information regarding energy options out to Ogunquit residents in an efficient way. Paul asked if we have the capability of an email blast to property owners.

*David: What do we want out of the project? We need to set a goal - this is what we want out of this project. We want the information to reach X or Y, and then put together a comprehensive program - not just an email here - we have many ways. Set up a separate section - just like we have for the Water Quality Plan. There could be a section for energy conservation with HOW TOs, a place where people can have their questions answered. And we could have a section with a series of workshops...*

*What is our goal? What are our tactics? How do we reach the public consistently? Not one email - but a series of email campaigns. And make it attractive - the Sustainability Committee can help me do this, and that. We need a strategic approach to the objective.*

*Margie: The general term would be “Energy Conservation” and after that, there are a lot of items that can be listed.*

David asked for a comprehensive list of energy items. Margie agreed to work with David. David agreed to set up the Energy Conservation Tab on the website – up within two weeks.

Priscilla asked if there was any more new business.

Margie stated that the beach was not on the list of town priorities for the Select Board.

Margie: *What happens if there is a catastrophic storm in September or October? Or a Category 4 hurricane hits directly? If there's no beach left, what does the town do? Does the town have a plan for that? What will the businesses do when there's no revenue?*

Members discussed the need for this issue to be addressed by multiple groups - Sustainability, Conservation, as well as the Select Board.

Paul added that he and Margie had been a part of an ad hoc group looking at beach erosion. They were tasked with answering a specific question: After the effect of the storm on Ogunquit Beach, how can we bring the beach back?

Margie stated that the Beach Erosion Study had recommended pumping sand over from the back of the river where the sand bars had formed, and where there was a great deal of sand.

Margie: *By the time the report was done, the sand started to come back. So it became less urgent, because there is sand there. There is sand on the beach at high tide. The immediate crisis went away. And there wasn't even that big a storm - you know how the winds are and how they carry the sands. What if you had a really catastrophic storm?*

Priscilla asked what the actionable item for the committee is on this issue?

Pam: *You bring up a good point, Margie. What if there is a catastrophic event? I see this as not just the Sustainability Committee. This involves the whole town. I think we should propose this to the Comprehensive Plan Committee - when they speak to each committee. We need to have something in our Comprehensive Plan, which is a ten-year plan, a strategic plan, a guide - that if there was a catastrophic event that destroyed the livelihood of the town...what would we do? What would be the plan of action? Who would be involved with what? Let the Comprehensive Plan take that up, because they are going to meet with every committee and every staff member...it would encompass the Town Manager, the Select Board - now, later - it would give them a roadmap.*

Margie: *It's up to the SB to put together an emergency plan to have available if something like this happened. And something could happen like this next September or October. You can't plan for ten years, with something like this and the way the weather has been and climate change accelerating - you have to plan for sooner than ten or twenty years. You have to plan for six months.*

Paul added that the MW Committee has been working on a sustainability assessment for the Marginal Way. He has been pursuing a grant in Augusta. This will be the first time

that any entity has put together a plan that deals with a projected threat. That same idea could be applied to the sustainability of the beach and the dunes.

Priscilla reviewed Action Items:

- Margie will work on the new energy conservation section for the website.
- David will set up that new section in the next two weeks
- Priscilla will look into outreach to other towns and what our options are.
- Jane will look into Native Plant Fair table.

#### **6.0 Public Comment**

No public comment

**7.0 Next meeting – April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM**

**8.0 Adjournment - 6:00 PM**

Please visit our website <https://sustainabilityogunquit.org> for additional meeting materials