



Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 23rd, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is being held at the Dunaway Center and via Zoom

1.0 Welcome & Call to Order 5:00 PM

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Priscilla Botsford, *Chair*; Marjorie Katz, *Vice Chair*; Jane Greene, *Secretary*; David Nosnik, *Member*, attended remotely.

Guests Present: Suzanne Williams, *Healthy Rivers Ogunquit*; John Bucci, *University of New Hampshire*.

1.3 Election of Officers

This will occur at the July 28th meeting

2.0 Review of Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2022

Minutes were approved 4-0

3.0 Ongoing Business

3.1 Water Quality

a. 319 Grant Implementation updates from the Town Manager:

- Jotham's Lane vegetative buffers
- FBE will do water testing for 319 Grant Phase IV and will work with Acorn Engineering.
- Main Beach Bath House determined *not* to be leaking.
- \$25,000 from SB COVID relief funds.
- The newly installed catch basin has not been tested yet.
- The Main Beach parking lot will *not* have pervious pavement.

Margie asked if the DEP had requirements regarding the paving of the parking lot. Priscilla responded that using pervious pavement is not included in the 319 Grant, but that the Town Manager committed to it. The parking lot will be patched.

b. Guest, John Bucci from UNH: Water Testing

Bucci stated that the first need is to designate the sites for testing. He would use *FB Environmental* and *Maine Healthy Beaches* as a guide. He recommended targeted sampling using a real time PCR test, a more rapid test: Biomeme/DNA assay testing. This test looks at the animal source and yields a result in approximately 60 minutes. This could provide vital information regarding beach closures. In addition to that test, Bucci could add a more comprehensive test: Environmental DNA (eDNA) This test would look at the profile of all the different animal types. Bucci stated that testing all 20 sites with 15 different species with both tests would be an additional \$5000.

Priscilla: *How do we prioritize this with the funds that we have to spend?*

Bucci: *Start with the historically high-count areas, where MHB has established sites.*

David asked if state or federal money was available. He agreed to work with Bucci to find possible funding, adding that this water testing program could be a model, a gold standard, and would be good for the tourist industry.

Bucci says he could start testing in July. He is waiting for funding.

Suzanne Williams added that HeRO did some regular testing, a snapshot, and will share data with Bucci.

Caller 1 asked what testing is happening north of the Ogunquit Bridge.

Caller 2 asked who closes the beaches, and what determines closure, adding that last week's count was high.

Bucci explained EPA guidelines. If it's 1000 one day, then 10 the next – they don't close the beaches.

Caller 2 asked if there was a way to get septic reports. Elaine Cooper gave data linked to septic pump outs in September.

Priscilla asked if these instruments/tests that Bucci was describing could be used at septic sites. Bucci said yes.

c. Suzanne Williams gave updates on HeRO's work:

A more coordinated effort for beach cleanup is being established. Intern, Sam Cahaly is taking that on. Clean-up is to keep plastics and other trash out of the ocean. Suzanne will coordinate with the Town and Sustainability Committee, and help with training.



HeRO received a grant to research the green crab population on the Ogunquit River. There are four designated sites: Main Beach, Ogunquit Tides, Footbridge and the mouth of the river. HeRO will collect data (at *least* 100 crabs) at each site once a week, studying the number of males versus females; soft molting shell versus hard shell. This is a Citizen Science project, and will involve designated volunteers and random volunteers at the site willing to participate.

d. 5-Town Consortium Meeting Report (Town Manager)

Matt and Mandy met with town partners. They want to move the conversation to water quality. The Sustainability Committee had recommended not continuing with the \$15,000 partnership, but the Town has signed on the contract with SMPDC. The Natural Resources position was not voted in, so they are not sure how this will proceed.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Proposal for gas Leaf Blowers ordinance

Margie shared information on leaf blower ordinance:

Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance (applies to property owners, businesses & landscapers)

Restricting gas powered leaf blowers will reduce emissions and noise created from leaf blower use. This ordinance regulates when gas-powered leaf blowers may be used. The goal is to limit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers to months when fallen leaf cleanup is required.

Leaf Blower Use

Property owners and landscapers are responsible for compliance with the ordinance. Both are subject to penalties following any violation. On land parcels of 7,500 sq. ft. or less in size, a maximum of two leaf blowers may be used simultaneously.

Battery/Electric Powered Leaf Blowers

No date restrictions; hours permitted same as gas-powered leaf blowers

Town Exemption:

The Department of Public Works is exempt from this ordinance.

Seasonal Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

<u>Dates Prohibited:</u>	<u>Dates Permitted:</u>	<u>Hours Permitted:</u>
May 16 - Sept. 30	March 15 - May 15	Mon.- Fri.: 8AM - 7PM
Dec. 15 - March 14	Oct. 1 - Dec. 14	Sat., Sun., & Holidays: 9AM - 6PM

4.2 What Town management can do now to promote and implement sustainability related ordinances, projects, products.

Margie brought up the disconnect between Ideas and actual implementation, suggesting that the Town could send out flyers to homeowners with information regarding sustainability issues. This could be included in the tax bill.

Priscilla asked Margie to come up with a list of recommendations – top 5 recommendations - that the Town could send out to their email list.

5.0 Public Comment

6.0 Next meeting - July 28th @ 5:00

7.0 Adjournment - 6:47 PM

Zoom Link: https://ogunquitpd-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1BrRRzWMSgehOc9o4qKk_w