

**Master Plan Implementation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2023  
7:00 PM-8:47 PM**

**Committee Present:** Chairperson Mark Silverberg, Vice Chairperson Wendy Mickel, Patrick Welch, Maria Barney, Ding Han, Tom Bleier, Catherine Nourse, Hank Rauch, Jack Haagensen, Kristi Williams, Kris Allen  
**Also present:** Kristen Belanger-Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant  
**Not present:** Stephanie Doyle, Christina Kelleher, Dan Schur

The meeting of the Westborough Master Plan Implementation Committee was held in the Fire Dept. Training Room on Milk St in Westborough, MA. on Monday, June 26, 2023. The meeting was convened by Mark Silverberg at 7:00 PM.

**Sustainable Westborough Update**

Peter Dunbeck presented to the committee.

He summarized the timeline of Sustainable Westborough.

- 2010, started with a focus on municipal govt. only.
- 2017, achieved the green community designation.
- 2018-present, Green community grants and reports
- 2019, put together a climate action plan which was community wide.
- 2021 Master Plan.

Our goals are non-binding. It is a strategic plan and call to action for the entire community. Out of this came the Sustainable Westborough committee.

MA goal is to get to Net Zero in 2050. Since 1990 there has been a 25% reduction then every 10 years we need to do another 25%, until we get to zero in 2050. These are mandatory state laws.

Many reports have been generated recently. There is a future gas study, an amended GWSA, Clean Energy and Climate Plan, a climate chief has been appointed.

Transportation and electric power are the predominant emission sectors. The Town will use KPIs to establish goals not tracking emissions. Will focus on local decisions.

**Goal SCC 1-1: Mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the community-scale and across all of the Town's municipal operations consistent with state goals.**

- Clean electricity program goals. Focus is shifting to businesses. 76% commercial, industrial and manufacturing.
- Building energy program goals- % of buildings fully electrified. Applies to all market segments.
- Transportation sector-drive green program goals- exclusively battery electric vehicles, not hybrids. Would like to have a pilot for school bus conversion. Current 2%EV in Westborough. Have 1 EV in the municipal fleet. MA passed no non electric vehicles after 2030.

- Sustainable living program goals- natural and working land goals and solid waste goals. Westborough would be 40% land and water area preserved. Solid waste goals reduce by 30% in 2030 and 90% by 2050.
- Ch 61- if farming or forestry they get discount on their taxes.

**Goal SCC 4-1: Improve community education around climate mitigation programs to build support for the goals and actions within this Master Plan that contribute to Westborough's enhanced environmental, social, and economic performance.**

- Community outreach activities.
- They have a website, dynamic content instead of a fixed playbook.
- Monthly newsletter.
- Events which include annual spring fair, annual fall expo, workshops and Mass Save tabling.

Goal H 1-4 aligns with this goal.

One of the goals of Sustainable Westborough is to help the community through the transition via education etc. Two members of the high school are part of the group. The hardest changes are building electrification and transportation and transitioning residential. There is a partner company called Homeworks that is partnering with them. They are doing a heat pump workshop to explain options.

Drive Green- supply chain issues. Member Nourse asked if there are solutions to the problem. Mr. Dunbeck responded it is new tech so there will be some hiccups to work through. Supply chain is robust at this point. There is a lot of new capacity being built.

Tradesmen are not open to change. In regards to the workforce, re-education is key. The state will need to come up with programs to do this.

Mr. Dunbeck asked the EDC coordinator about doing workforce training to educate businesses. As we get rid of fossil fuels you experience health benefits. A Federal program is funding school buses. If Westborough can find funding we can include senior center buses etc.

Chair Silverberg would like to see gas stations redeveloped, how do we make them economically viable? He asked how the state will replace the revenue stream from gas stations. This is a hot topic but no answer at this point.

#### Implementation Support-

- Have a new Sustainability Coordinator.
- Select Board- Town Govt advocacy with the state house.
- Green Zoning Bylaws- encourage EV charging stations, solar arrays on new construction.
- Specialized stretch energy code.
- Municipal building electrification plan.
- Engage business community in support of attainment of goals.
- Municipal fleet electrification.
- Electric school bus plan.

- Natural Land protection.
- Waste reduction plan.

Mr. Dunbeck has made an effort to interact with the garden club. They would be a great partner to plant trees. DPW has a program called adopt a tree. There are limitations on where you can plant.

**Chair Silverberg made a motion to approve the minutes from 6/5/2023. Member Welch seconded.  
Vote: 8-0**

Discussion was had on where the committee stands now. All Dept.'s and committees that were identified as implementation leaders in the 16 identified goals have made their presentation to the committee. The committee would like to circle back and reevaluate if the original goals will remain or be reprioritized. Member Welch would like to plan on doing a report back to the community at the town meeting.

MPIC is to know what each Dept. is currently working on goal wise and then keep in touch to make sure they know what the next goals are in terms of priority.

There is time available with VHB that can be used when needed to update the living document and advise on next steps.


Member Nourse asked if we can ask VHB to provide a template for next steps compared to what others towns have done.

Next meeting will report back on best practices. Reassess priority list. Identify other goals to be added. We need to have a discussion on meeting cadence moving forward. Member Williams thinks the next meeting should be scheduled for August. Member Williams is going to ask Dept. heads to update the tracker again.

August 14 is the next MPIC meeting. Member Haagensen is going away to school and will need to resign his position on the committee. Planning Board will need to decide if they are going to reduce the number on the committee or try to find a replacement.

**Member Welch made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Member Mickel seconded.  
Vote: 8-0**

*Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Belanger, Planning Dept. Admin. Assistant*



*\*One board member signature required for approval.*