



## Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

---

**Board/Committee: Sustainability Committee**

**Day & Date: Thursday, June 1**

**Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Location: IN PERSON Town Hall Room 7**

### MINUTES

**Attendees:** Alison Anholt-White, Chair, John Croft, Sue Henderson, Nadia Wetzler, Louisa Mackintosh.  
**Guests:** Steve Gang and John Round.

Steve and John are members of the Water Resources Task Force which is no longer active, and would like to join forces with the Sustainability committee -either as members of this committee or as a sub-committee.

1. Alison called the meeting to order. The minutes from 4/06/23 were approved: Sue moved to approve them and Nadia seconded.
2. Sue described the purpose for the Action Plan including the four areas of priority: Community education, waste reduction, conservation and preservation of natural resources, and lowering emissions. We discussed the goal to have all residents (and ideally restaurants and Crosbys too) to compost but know that enforcement is difficulty to do. A new push to instigate universal composting in MBTS will be made once the construction of the new Regional Composting Center on Pine Street is completed.

There was discussion about adding drinking fountains around town to encourage members and visitors to use refillable water bottles – or at least get a drink from a fountain instead of a plastic water bottle. The schools already have added more drinking fountains. Other sites where drinking fountains could be placed include Masconomo and Reed Parks as well as the playing fields behind the Memorial School and Singing Beach. Need volunteer to take on this issue and figure out how these can be purchased and installed.

No matter what the source of drinking water at the beach, while some people would like to have trash barrels once again placed on the beach, it would be better to have a carry in; carry out policy instead. Committee will come up with a no littering sign for the beach.

3. Water Resources issues –Steve & John gave background on the work the Water Resources Task Force has undertaken. They described the water sources and that the Lincoln Well has a PFAS problem from an unknown source.  
Over the course of 18 months, the Task Force studied the water supply in Manchester to learn about the quality and contamination. To see how engaged residents are in that quality and sources, the governance, accountability and enforcement of keeping the water supply safe. They found that there are some contamination issues at the Lincoln Street well which include high sodium content and PFAS. They mentioned a study done by a consultant, Scott Horsley who

recommended some by-law changes. The changes were made and no more steps were taken to improve the quality of the well water. The DPW, however, is currently aware of the issues and trying to find a new resource or a filtration system for the existing source.

The other part of the study involved water use by residents. Looking at usage over a ten-year period they were able to isolate a small percentage of households who use significantly more water than the rest. They are proposing a rate change for water usage which would charge a much higher per gallon rate for those in the very high use category and lower the rates for everyone else. They have selected two smart meters, of which one brand would ultimately be selected and placed on water lines to all homes. Initially, they propose a one-year study on about 2 dozen households (12 of each brand) to determine which of the meters is most user-friendly and accurate in measuring water use.

Much of the water use happens in the summer for watering lawns and gardens. Residents need to be educated about less water-intensive irrigation methods and garden designs. They mentioned Greenscapes, North Shore Coalition as a resource for getting started on this. The Sustainability Committee will be involved in promoting the importance of good stewardship of our public water supply to the public. In the fall we may do this by presentations and tours of the facilities.

4. MBTS Net Zero Municipal Operations Advisory Group. Alison attended two meetings run by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and attended by DPW members and other key stakeholders. The goal of the group is to “develop an actionable framework that will set the town on a path towards net zero for municipal operations.”
5. Green Communities discussion w Betsy Ware, the interim Planning Board director –John Croft attended a meeting to learn more about the Town’s initiative for more sustainable building requirements. Currently the Town has no requirements other than those dictated by the Commonwealth and the Federal government. There are no immediate plans to change the local requirements. The Planning Board is focused on changing zoning to allow more multi-family arrangements and how to comply with the MBTA 40A deal from the State.
6. The Zero Waste Challenge was a success. Ten High School teachers and some of their students participated along with some elementary school families. Separately, the presentation by Republic Services, also at the Library had a decent attendance. Alison & Louisa were also present to learn about the recycling process at GreenWorks.

On 6/27 there is a MBTS Governance meeting which Steve will be attending as a member of the Conservation Commission. This is a workshop planned for Town committee heads to meet and learn what other committees are involved in.

The date of the next Sustainability Committee meeting will be in October, TBD. The proposal is to have a meeting every second Thursday at 7 PM.