



**TOWN OF WINDSOR
Personnel Committee
MAY 27, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Chair, Councilor Nuchette Black Burke and Councilor Len Walker

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Miller, 10 Ethan Drive, wanted to take a moment for those in Windsor who have passed away from COVID-19. She stated that pandemics and climate change are related. They are both global, devastating, and hit the most vulnerable targets. She feels that this initiative is vital for the future and the future of our children. Ms. Miller stated that this group should start out with a certain values statement. She noted that she believes in Windsor and that this is a beautiful town to live, work and go to school in. Ms. Miller noted that it is important to improve citizens lives and that these should be goals of all decision making. She also stated that reducing fossil fuel use is paramount to creating a sustainable future. Ms. Miller stated that there are a number of ways that improvements can be made such as cost savings through town expenses or household expense reductions, increased use of clean and renewable energy, reduced use of fossil fuel and increased health benefits. It is important that these benefits are equitably shared with the communities that are most vulnerable to its affects. She noted that she has spoken with Councilor Bress about ideas for the goals of the group. Ms. Miller stated that it is important to start with an assessment as to where we are and that this task force goes beyond the municipal level and have a town wide focus. She mentioned that the group should provide education, programs, and initiatives to move to cleaner energy for the public.

Eric Weiner, 76 Palisado Avenue, wanted to follow up on a few of the comments that Susan Miller mentioned earlier. Mr. Weiner noted that the Town of Windsor has done a remarkable job around energy conservation within the town and school buildings. He stated that the task force should itemize and educate the public on what has been done to date. This would be a short term effort. Mr. Weiner discussed having short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. He discussed short-term goals around items like lighting and solar. He discussed mid-term goals as how the town sources its electricity. The town should also look into the possibility of community solar. Mr. Weiner discussed long-term goals as being one hundred percent renewable energy in the transportation sectors. He stated that these longer-term goals should be tied to the year 2033 as this is the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Windsor.

Elizabeth Yetman, 82 Robin Road, wanted to speak to ideas raised about sustainability, both economical and environmental. Ms. Yetman mentioned some great work that has already been done with the Solarize Windsor project. She noted a lot of solar panels were going back on residential homes especially in the Wilson neighborhood. She stated that she was happy to see

people being able to take advantage of the economic benefits of clean and renewable energy. Ms. Yetman mentioned that she also had solar panels recently installed onto her home and that is was such an advantage on a month to month basis to not have to worry about that utility bill. She also mentioned that she would like to see the task force work on educating residents about environmental sustainability as well as work on grants to help reduce some of the costs. Ms. Yetman also discussed that she would hope the task force looks at transportation through a clean energy and sustainability lens.

Councilor Bress read the following email from Bonnie Karkowski, 1852 Poquonock Avenue, "Thank you for your advocacy for a Sustainability Commission. I have just read the minutes of the last council meeting at which I expressed my support. The Council's clerk does a fantastic job on the minutes and should be commended for her excellent work. A previous clerk basically only listed names and addresses of public comment speakers, but she goes to a great deal of effort to summarize each speaker's comments. Therefore, I hate to point out that I didn't say that the Sustainability Commission should focus only on environmental sustainability. I stated that economic and social sustainability need to be considered and particularly recommended a liaison with the Town Planning & Zoning Commission as well as the two commissions mentioned in the minutes. The decisions Town Planning & Zoning makes impact our climate in a major way. Input from the Sustainability Commission would encourage the latest green technology to be used in new construction projects being considered by TP&Z. A Sustainability Commission, as an advocacy group, can make an impact through educating our citizens, but participation in our regulatory commissions will further their goals. On another note, both my husband and I ask that all Council members request that our MDC representative vote 'No' regarding the Niagara discount. I sent an email to all council members earlier today regarding the Niagara issue. Thank you for all the wonderful work you are doing. The February meeting was my first chance to see you in action as it has become difficult for me to attend meetings. I must say you are doing an excellent job. Dr. Terranova must be extremely pleased that you are "filling her shoes" so expertly!"

Councilor Bress read the following email from Maureen Vagnini, 40 Valley View Drive, "The climate is changing, both globally and locally, due to an increase of greenhouse gases (GHGs) released into the atmosphere. While GHGs are naturally found in the environment and can fluctuate in nature through events like volcanic eruptions and forest fires, human-caused sources are contributing large quantities of GHGs into the environment at a faster rate than our atmosphere can accommodate. Fossil fuels such as petroleum-based products (gasoline or diesel), and natural gas are the greatest human-caused contributors to GHG emissions, and are used to run equipment, generate lighting, and heat and operate our buildings and power our vehicles. We would like the Town of Windsor to consider a total change to renewable energy for all town facilities, town vehicles and all of the services supported by the town."

Councilor Bress read the following email from Liz Dupont-Diehl, 76 Palisado Avenue, "Thank you, please convey, that I strongly support a commission with purview and authority to reduce fossil fuel use for the town and also help residents reduce fossil fuel use and transition to a clean energy economy. This has the collateral benefit of providing local, well-paying jobs. Furthermore it is imperative that we stop fossil fuel use and carbon emissions to slow global warming and prevent drastic climate change. Even if clean energy costs more, I would still support a transition as the long-range benefits would far outweigh any short-term costs. The science exists to allow

this to happen and the residents of Windsor call on our elected representatives and town officials to show leadership and do what is both economically and morally right. There are excellent models for us to follow, from South Windsor and other towns, allowing us to tap the best knowledge of residents and experts. Thank you.”

3. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING MISSION STATEMENT FOR CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Councilor Black-Burke thanked all of the citizens who came out and spoke both today as well as in the past regarding the clean energy and sustainability task force.

Councilor Walker agreed with Councilor Black-Burke’s comments thanking the public. He agreed with looking at sustainability, making sure that we can reduce costs and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

Assistant Town Manager Colby briefly gave some background on this topic from when it was discussed during the Town Council meeting on February 18, 2020 as well as at the Personnel Committee meeting on April 28, 2020.

4. REVIEW MISSION, CHARGE AND MOTION FOR CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Councilor Bress reviewed the draft mission/charge that was presented to the Personnel Committee meeting on April 28, 2020. Minor changes were made to the draft. The Personnel Committee recommended bringing the proposed charge/mission back to the Town Council for approval and then to begin the process of accepting and reviewing applications from interested residents. The Personnel Committee approved the draft mission, charge and motion for the Citizens Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy with unanimous consent.

5. CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- a) **RESCHEDULE** Paul St. Amand – Republican member – Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission – REAPPOINTMENT
- b) **Richard Hazelton – Democratic member – Public Building Commission – REAPPOINTMENT**

The committee met with Mr. Hazelton via phone regarding his reappointment to the Public Building Commission.

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Walker to reappoint Richard Hazelton as a Democratic member to the Public Building Commission for a three year term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

c) RESCHEDULE Max Kuziak – Democratic member – Zoning Board of Appeals – REAPPOINTMENT

d) Dawn Kirkwood – Unaffiliated member – Zoning Board of Appeals – REAPPOINTMENT

The committee met with Ms. Kirkwood via phone regarding her reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Bress to reappoint Dawn Kirkwood as an Unaffiliated member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four year term to expire November 10, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

e) Neill Sachdev – Democratic member – Conservation Commission – REAPPOINTMENT

MOVED By Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Walker to reappoint Neill Sachdev as a Democratic member to the Conservation Commission for a five year term to expire November 30, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

f) Kevin Washington – Unaffiliated member – Library Advisory Board – REAPPOINTMENT

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Walker to reappoint Kevin Washington as an Unaffiliated member to the Library Advisory Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

6. STAFF REPORTS - None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) April 28, 2020

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Bress to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS



9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott W. Colby Jr.
Assistant Town Manager