

## TOCC Climate & Environment Committee

Thursday, 2.05.2026, 7:00 PM

Town Hall

### MINUTES OF MEETING:

**Attendees:** Sheila Blum, Reese Bolt, Chris Files, Alison Fox, Linda Geiser (co-chair), Michelle Grace (co-chair), Carol Jacobson, Jessica Langerman, Tandra Leonard (Town Council liaison), and Jeff Marqusee, Thornton Matheson.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved by the committee.

### Committee Business:

- New committee members Carol Jacobson and Thornton Matheson introduced themselves and the other present committee members introduced themselves
- The “More you Know” posts on the listserve
  - Draft a mock calendar 6 months out, include topics that we cover
  - Each sub-committee send Michelle some topics for the posts
  - Michelle to contact Wicca Davidson to check that this use of the Town listserve is okay
- Town Sustainability staff person - Sheila Blum will work with Melissa Mello to come up with roles/duties for the proposed sustainability staff person keeping in mind that the staff person can be shared with other local municipalities
  - An example duty for the sustainability manager would be to oversee the replanting, with native plants, of the 34 gardens/triangles that the Town owns (if the Town decides to replant with natives)

### Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Recycling/Composting** (chair: Jessica Langerman)
  - Beyond Plastics - this presentation could be posted on the listserve as the first post under the “more you know”
    - Presentation is now on the Town website
  - MoCo Recycling Facility tour - certain committee members attended the Jan 30 tour of MoCo’s recycling facility
    - Dual stream recycling facility
    - Fiber recycling is very successful (300 tons of fiber recycled per day)
    - 42% of plastics end up being recycled
  - Next Steps:
    - Sub-committee will submit some follow up questions to contact at MoCo recycling facility
    - Michelle will follow up with Todd regarding questions sent to WM that have not been answered as of today
    - Sub-committee will work on creating a graphic of what can and can not be recycled that is more user friendly than the graphic currently on the Town website
- **Website Redesign** (Michelle Grace for Stacey Schacter)
  - Stacey had a productive meeting with Todd and John in the Town office last Friday
  - Town’s platform, Civic Plus, has most if not all of the functionality that we would like
  - Todd mocked up a structure on the Town’s website based on what Stacey proposed
    - Want to keep the current navigation so that the CEC section can be integrated to the rest of the Town’s website. For example, events should be posted on the Town calendar and then flow to the CEC section of the website under events

- Next Steps:
  - Reorganize the material that is currently on the CEC section into the new structure, delete old material
    - Each sub-committee should look at the website and decide what information to keep or add
    - Michelle will work with Lily in the Town office to make the changes
  - Once that is done, add graphics and aesthetics
  
- **Sustainable Landscaping/Native Plants** (co-chair: Alison Fox)
  - Native Plants - 2pm presentation on April 12
    - Sub-committee has seen the slides and will talk to Drew about what he should focus on
    - Native Plants materials for tables
      - Drew will be at a table for questions after
      - Sub-committee will also have a table
    - Follow up with the Town to see if we can have posters around town to advertise the event
  - Native Gardens map for Town website - 14 gardens volunteered
    - Sub-committee discussing whether we should ask volunteers to provide a list of the native plants that they have in their garden
  - Garden Tour - asking volunteers to man their gardens for 2 hours of the 4 hours
    - Map similar to the Art Walk
    - Have QR codes with apps that can identify the type of plants
  - Stuart, Carol and Chris working on the triangle area with the Town - several triangles are due for new plantings. Would like the Town to plant native. Also have the Town commit to native plantings whenever need to replant
    - Chris knows Cathryn Penser (Town resident) who is a landscaper designer. Cathryn will provide a sketch of the Thornapple/Maple triangle for the Town as an example
  
- **Promoting Solar/Electrification** (co-chair: Jeff Marqusee)
  - Package of info on solar panel on residential houses
    - Because of skyrocketing electricity costs pay back time period is getting better and better
    - Handout and the chili dinner
  - Package of info on heat pump hot water heaters. If switching from natural gas to heat pumps need to look at on a case by case basis. If switching from electric to heat pump hot water heater pay back very fast because of the improved efficiency
    - Empower MD rebate \$1600 on heat pump water heater (need to check whether there is an income qualification. Sheila looked it up and no income qualification)
  - Need to put together this info for the Chili dinner

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned and members were reminded that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.