



Energy & Sustainability Committee (ESC)
August 17, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting – Minutes - approved on 10/19/2023

Joint Meeting with Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC)

ESC Attendees:

Bob Dorer (chair)
Dan Bostwick (minute taker)
Emily Prince
Patricia Fabian
Margot Fleischman

ESC Liaisons:

Ron Scaltreto, Facilities
Chris Gittins, Planning Board

BARC Attendees:

Molly Haskell (chair)
Dan Churella
Bobbi Tornheim
Deb Edinger
Jacqueline Edwards

Members of the Public:

Jane Mosier
Dawn Lafrance-Linden
John McClain
Renu Bostwick
Corrine Doud
Christine Rabinowitz
Karen Willson
Brendan Welch

Bob Dorer called the ESC meeting to order at 7:06 PM and read the remote meeting disclaimer.
Molly Haskell called the BARC meeting to order at 7:07 PM

1. BARC Presentation on the proposed update to the Bedford Tree Policy

Dan Churella gave a presentation on the proposed changes to Bedford's Tree Policy. BARC is seeking feedback from Town committees.

- Currently the removal fee for any Town owned tree is \$500, regardless of the tree's size or age.
- The new policy proposes a removal fee of \$350 per inch of tree diameter plus a multiplier per 10 inches of diameter. This fee structure is in line with Bedford's neighbors.
- The proposed tree policy would also eliminate the per acre fee for clearing trees and require each tree to be considered individually.
- The primary goal of the policy changes is to preserve trees; generating funds is secondary.
- Removal fees are put into the Town's tree remediation revolving fund for planting and maintaining trees.
- The tree policy applies only to Town-owned trees. The policy does not apply to trees on private property.

ESC Questions:



- Is there anything in the policy to encourage maintenance?
 - The current and proposed tree policy requires 3 yr of watering and also encourages buying appropriate trees for the area.
- Is there a minimum diameter for the per tree calculation in an acre?
 - Proposed policy for cost only applies to tree > 4in diameter at breast height.
- Could the Town have its own tree nursery?
 - It would be very expensive and take a long time to grow from seed. The Town did try to grow chestnut trees from seed, but deer ate them.
- Does the policy apply to a dead or diseased hazard tree?
 - No, there's no Town removal fee for trees that are considered hazardous.
- Dawn Lafrance-Linden (TAC): Looked for Bedford Tree Inventory – is there one? How do we know if the policy is working if we don't have an inventory? How will we know how many trees are lost to non-human removal? Are a lot of the trees lost on public land or private land?
 - Jaqi Edwards: For many years DPW didn't want to do a tree inventory. BARC started one but DPW said they'd only use it for identifying hazard trees. There was no interest in doing the analysis raised by Dawn.
 - Dan Churella: Town will develop a tree master plan that will include: inventory, planting plan, maintenance plan, etc

Joint meeting of ESC and BARC ends at 7:30pm. ESC meeting continues.

2. Public Comment for ESC meeting

- Corinne Doud: ESC agreed to co-sponsor a forum on the climate impacts of private jet expansion. The proposed date is Thur Sept 28, 6:30-7:30pm. Speakers: Neil Rasmussen in person, Bill McKibben by Zoom. Would like the ESC to confirm the date and feedback on a 3rd speaker.

3. Town Recycling Update

Bedford's Recycling Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Specialized Energy code

- Dan Bostwick gave an update on plans for a public forum on the Specialized Energy Code. The date is Wednesday Oct 18 at 7pm. Dan Bostwick will give an overview of the Specialized Energy Code followed by short comments by panelists and Q&A from the public. The goal is to have 3 panelists: a builder or architect who is experienced in building all-electric homes; a representative from the Green Communities Division of MA Dept of Energy Resources; a representative from a community that has already passed the Specialized Energy Code.
- Dan Bostwick moved the ESC co-sponsor the forum with Mothers Out Front. Emily Prince seconded
 1. Motion approved 5-0-0
- Facilities will assist with room setup and audio-visual needs, including Zoom



5. Energy and Sustainability Manager Hiring

- The job posting is back up on the Town website.
- The new Town Manager gave a detailed answer about the position during his interview. He has read the job description and has ideas on how to update it with the goal of attracting more applicants.

6. CCA

- Emily Prince had a call with Good Energy (Allison McNeill) and Charlie Ticotsky to talk about timeline for renewal. Current contract end date is Nov 2024. Next Spring is time to start renewal process.
- Bob Dorer: Did Allison have anything to say about perhaps renewing early to get a better rate? She didn't raise that as a possibility. Emily Prince will get back to Good Energy and see what they think.
- Bob Dorer: Huckins Farm has its own agreement with a supplier that ends this Nov. They are hesitant to recommend residents switch to Town CCA.
 - Margot Fleischman: I'd think individual homeowners at Huckins Farm would be able to join the Town's CCA. Maybe it's an opportunity to educate the Huckins Farm residents.
 - Bob Dorer will follow up with Huckins Farm representative.
- Allison will give thought to a promotional campaign in time for STM.
- Bob Dorer suggests we get a standard monthly report on enrollment.

7. Updates

- Composting and Waste Diversion
 - 57 registered for Town composting, Black Earth 348. MOF is planning a pumpkin smash after Halloween. Schools are looking to roll out more food waste diversion to BHS and Lane and eventually Davis.
- Town Buildings
 - This morning, refresher training on Police Station HVAC controls to make it more efficient. HVAC commissioning is ongoing. Fire Station into the design phase of the project – Town has made a commitment to be ENZ. Goal is to save as many of the trees as possible. Library update: 100% committed to be ENZ. There are budget challenges, but there is a reasonable plan that will be presented at Special Town Meeting to keep it as originally designed.
- Neighboring Town programs of interest
 - Hanscom forum: Select Board approved a letter to be sent to Gov Healy on behalf of HATS. Would HFAC (Hanscom Field Advisory Commission) point person be a good speaker: Christopher Elliot. Emily Mitchell is the Bedford rep to HATS.
 - Lexington has a new Climate Action and Resilience Plan; Bob Dorer suggested committee members review.
 - Patricia Fabian recommends reviewing the MAPC Net Zero playbook

8. Possible Future Topics



- The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) wants to work with ESC on climate related issues. Bob Dorer will get in touch with TAC chair, Dawn Lafrance-Linden

9. July Minutes

- Will be approved at September's meeting

10. Adjourn

- Margot Fleischman moves to adjourn, seconded by Dan Bostwick. Motion Passes 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm