

**Master Plan 2023
Sustainability Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
December 04, 2023, 7:00 PM
Room 205
355 East Central Street**

This meeting was available to be attended in person by all citizens. The meeting was also live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29.

Recordings have been made available on Franklin TV's "Franklin Town Hall TV" YouTube channel. Additionally, citizens were able to participate remotely via phone and Zoom.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Gino Carlucci, Member Melanie Hamblen, Member Eric Steltzer

Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance via zoom:

Meeting called to order by Chair Gino Carlucci at 7:00 PM

Review and approval of minutes.

Motion to approve minutes was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Review and comment on the BETA and Barrett Report.

Chair Carlucci initiated a review of the Inventory and Assessment Report prepared by BETA and Barrett. Member Hamblen commented that the town has done more than what the report states with respect to sustainability. Since the 2013 date of the report the transfer station has grown and provides additional waste management options. The members noted that the report does not include recent solar panel bylaws, which should be updated in the report. Member Steltzer commented on the environmental benefits of solar energy and that you can't claim the environmental benefits because you have sold the power and the related renewable energy certificate to the grid.

Member Hamblen noted that municipal buildings and parking lots should have solar panels. The members noted that any excess electricity credits should benefit the town, specifically residents in the housing authority and affordable housing units. The Chair noted that recent court decisions may impede the town's ability to regulate solar power growth. Member Steltzer commented on the lack

of information on geo-thermal units in residential housing and municipal buildings. Members discussed the town's lack of bylaws on autonomous vehicles and delivery drones. The chair noted that downtown areas in other towns are becoming storage sites for package delivery operations which will change the vitality of the downtown. The members noted that the effects of climate change and an updated flood management plan should be included in the report. The chair discussed the savings by owning and switching street lights to LED.

Community Informational gathering meetings

Members discussed information gathering options such as inviting Energize Franklin and other groups to an informal meeting. Other options are to set up a table at the Farmers Market on Saturday December 16th to engage residents.

Additional Comments.

None

Next Meetings: Sustainability subcommittee scheduled for December 16, 2023

Chair Gino Carlucci motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Eric Steltzer Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.