



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2021 10:30 AM
Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom

SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA

Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory: On March 17, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N- 29-20, suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other electronic means. Pursuant to the statewide Shelter-In-Place Order issued by the Governor in Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, and the CDC's social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, Portola Valley Town Council meetings are being conducted electronically. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92522142137?pwd=aTdySStLemQ0ZldTYm9lNXVaZ1lqQT09>

Meeting ID: 925 2214 2137

Password: 772807

To access the meeting by phone, dial:

1-699-900-6833

1-877-853-5247 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute - press *6*

*Raise Hand - press *9*

- 1. Call To Order**
- 2. Oral Communications**
- 3. Approval of March 15, 2021 Minutes**
- 4. Appointment of Secretary**
- 5. Old Business:**
 - a. Updates from Maryann**
 - b. Updates from Brandi**
 - c. Updates from Subcommittees**
 - i. Blackout Protection**
 - ii. Climate Change Reading Discussion Group**
 - iii. Recruit New Members**
 - iv. PV Donates**
 - v. How to Respond to Misinformation**
 - vi. Finalization of 2021-22 Budget**
- 6. New Business:**
 - a. Next Steps on Smart Water Meters**
- 7. Date and Topics for Next Meeting**
 - a. Next Meeting: May 17th at 10:30 am**
- 8. Adjournment**



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Special Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021 10:30 AM
Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom

SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA

1. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 10:34 am

Sustainability committee statement of purpose:

The Sustainability Committee mission is to assist the Town of Portola Valley in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing comprehensive water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction programs, and engaging and educating the residents of Portola Valley to meet the goals outlined in the Sustainability Element of the General Plan.”

Attendance

Members: Walt Hays, Rebecca Flynn, Loverine Taylor, Maryann Derwin.

Absent: Stefan Unnasch

Public: Kristi Corley, Rita Comes, Ryan Gunstream.

Secretary: Rebecca Flynn

2. Oral Communications

3. Approval of February 22, 2021 Minutes

Minutes approved.

4. Appointment of Secretary

New secretary will be appointed when we have more members. Rotating currently.

5. Old Business:

a. Updates from Maryann

Recommend that the committee read op-ed by Jeff in the Almanac about Texas power crisis and see the webinar. The California model is much better structured and unlikely to have similar issues.

Link to talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BR1uFmNWxE>

Link to op-ed: <https://www.almanacnews.com/square/2021/03/14/guest-opinion-the-texas-power-crisis-what-happened-why-it-happened-and-what-it-means-for-the-future-of-energy-policy>

b. Updates from Brandi

1. Cpuc meeting Thursday, March 18: Final decision on our smart meter rate case to fix a clerical error. **Committee will be tasked to communicate to the town the benefits of smart meters to reduce leaks and water waste.**
2. 2 interns starting to work on Green building ordinance and sustainability section of the website and the Climate Action plan. PV website being redone with a new look after 12 years. **Committee ideas for the sustainability section need to be passed onto Jack, new intern.**

c. Updates from Subcommittees/Review Committee Priorities

i. Blackout Protection – EV/Solar/Battery Backup/Energy Efficiency

Presentation provided last meeting.

Idea of having the Town Solar power providing power during a power outage. This issue needs to be investigated extensively as Town Hall acts as Emergency Command Center so any changes to the generator needs to be thoroughly understood. Could the Town speak with Solar panel maintenance to find out if it's an option to add a cut off to allow solar to continue to provide energy to the Town Hall.

Discourage fossil-fuel powered generators

Use of battery back up for solar (\$\$\$)

Action: Create a document to communicate to the Town about options for power during a blackout.

ii. Climate Change Reading Discussion Group

No update. Limited possibilities due to Covid pandemic. New books available. Currated book list. Apocalyptic situation with climate change that we need to attack. Loverine recommends a statement for the Town Council. Add reading list to the website. Add factoid of the day to the website.

Action: Plan to provide a post to the PVForum about the reading list and reading discussion list.

Need to get community experts involved in providing zoom seminars.

Library planning to open in April at 25%.

iii. Smart Water Meter Implementation

Smart Meter outreach to community. Cal Water hoping by the end of the year. Requires infrastructure and installation training by Cal water to implement.

Action: Committee to support roll out with education on use of the water meters once the installation date is finalized.

iv. Recruit New Members

Action: Draft message to PVForum and for weekly Town eNotice to recruit new members. Kari will draft a message that Rebecca and Maryann will review.

v. Capitalize on BayRen and PCE programs for building efficiency, electrification, and EV charging stations

BayRen (regional organization funded by ABAG body, MPC) – program of the 9 counties of the bay area to fund energy efficiency education and incentives.

BayRen has an excellent refund for HPHW with PCE for \$2500 refund and includes list of approved installers. Those who have end of life issues for their hot water heater should look into the program as once a water heater dies, there is tremendous urgency to replace it with the same. Rebecca attended an HPHW talk and called several of the approved installers to find out about costs. They ranged from ~\$4200-\$5600 for 50-65 gallon HPHW machines with installation (not requiring a panel upgrade) and before the \$2500 rebate. More information available on Bayren and PCE websites.

Action: Jack, intern, could be used for researching BayRen incentives.

Golden hills has done a list of shut offs, emergency prep, etc. Westridge looking into doing that.

6. New Business:

a. PV Donates (Town Manager – Jeremy Dennis)

PVDonates – allow residents to fund small programs.

Individual committees would promote discrete programs for fundraising. (few \$100s to \$5000). Recommendations for visible, “fun” stuff to bring the Town together and provide visibility to the committees.

Excess funds would go into a fund for future uses.

Action: Think of items that could be added to the list for Sustainability. Members need to provide input by the next meeting.

b. How to Respond to Misinformation (Rebecca)

There is a need to respond to misinformation about sustainability issues on the PVForum.

Action: Set up an sustainability email account for the PVForum.

Action: Provide an FAQ on the website for the providing factual information about issues brought up on the PVForum.

Action: Reactivate the Drought Action committee.

Kristi Corley: Melting plastic damaged the water pipes during the Tubb fire leaving neighborhoods without water and without being able to rebuild.

Rita Comes: Suggestion to send a message to PVForum poster to let them know about having the sustainability committee address the information during a future meeting.

c. Preliminary Review of 2021-22 Committee Budget

Budget attached.

Garden Tour: share funding with conservation.

Earth Fair: provide potential alternatives given low attendance and lack of volunteers.

Education and Outreach: \$800 to send out a postcard mailer, Rita Comes says that we can add info to Women’s club newsletter and book club.

Lecture series: include idea of workshops, particularly drought related.

Gift bag idea/lightbulb: use to up attendance at activities.

Technology tour: potential raffle budget.

Cal water use: eliminate, no longer relevant to smart meter

Cal water smart meter augment: promotion of the smart meters to the community.

(Brandi to confirm the technology)

Film/lecture series and workshops (combine budget #6 and #13). Find experts to present to the Town over zoom.

Book Club: fund books for book club.

Before final budget, committee needs to decide on member staffing for each item.

d. Discussion on how Town plans to save water and encourage residents to do the same (Walt)

Rita Comes suggests keeping voluntary water conservation for new buildings.

7. Date and topics for next meeting

a. Next Meeting: April 19th at 10:30 am

Meetings occur third Monday of the month.

8. Announcements

Neighborhood clean up – Saturday Apr 24. No toxins. Town covers Woodside Patrol cost for traffic control.

Look for potential to organize with Goodwill. Requires town volunteers to organize. Restrictions with Covid guidelines. Wait until Covid restrictions are lifted.

Sod blitz – May 15-19. Packets available from school house. Need to sign up before. Look for info in the Town weekly newsletter.

9. Adjournment at 12:30 pm