



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Special Sustainability Committee Meeting
Monday, May 17, 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/98387530474?pwd=cTVKQURKQ1hDcXZtS2N2ZitlbTdRUT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8753 0474

Password: 754912

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, and April 19, 2021 Minutes
4. Appointment of Secretary
5. Old Business:
 - a. Updates from Maryann
 - b. Updates from Brandi
 - c. Update from Subcommittees/Review Committee Priorities
 - i. Next Steps - Blackout Protection – EV/Solar/Battery Backup/Energy Efficiency
 - ii. Climate Change Reading Discussion Group
 - iii. Smart Water Meter Implementation
 - iv. Recruit New Members
6. New Business:
 - a. Response to potential drought
 - b. Research end of life equipment replacement options
7. Date and Topics for Next Meeting
 - a. Next Meeting: June 21 at 10:30 am
8. Announcements
9. 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. Curated 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

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – April 19, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM April 19, 2021

Sustainability Committee statement of purpose.

The Sustainability Committee's 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 Elements of the General Plan.

Attendance

Members: Walt Hayes, Rebecca Flynn, Loverine Taylor, Stefan Unnasch, Judith Murphy, Brandi deGarmeau

Absent: Maryann Derwin

Public: Kristi Corley, Caroline Vertongen, Jason Salah

Temp.Secy: L. Taylor

Oral Communications : JM: The Town will soon begin a review of the Design Guidelines. Since they were largely esthetic originally, and we now both know much more and care much more about making homes more energy efficient, we might try to have some input into the revisions. For example with reflectivity standards.

Public Comment:

KC: 2 concerns

Aspects of Peninsula Clean Energy (XXX??) that will be presented at upcoming town council meeting; BdG "bring your concerns to TC meeting".

Concern about environmental impact of change of access on Corte Madera Rd. Along scenic corridor of Alpine Rd and Portola Rd. Sustainability Committee determined this outside the scope of the committee. A land use/easement issue. Concerns should be addressed to PV Public Works Department.

CV: Appreciates committees' efforts and understands that the Sustainability Committee appreciates input from residents which provides different perspectives and solutions.

Approval of Minutes

Appointment of Secretary

LT volunteered to take minutes for this meeting. Put off selection of permanent secretary until we have more members.

Old Business

Updates from Maryann

not present

Updates from BdG

New intern Jack. Working on Green Building Ordinance. TC has asked for research into all electric ADUs; battery storage.

BdG reported the first online business license payment has occurred. The culmination of a 10 yr project to get an online portal operative to apply for, and pay for, a town business license. Reduces mailings and saves gas.

RF requested a vehicle for the Sustainability Committee to provide information directly to the community. Suggested options: a new portal called PV Sustainability@gmail.com or can it go through the Town of PV Web site. BdG noted this may necessitate the use of town staff and special cyber security training. RF agreed to take training.

Updates from Subcommittees (in order of presentation)

Climate change reading discussion group

LT described a more focused approach to the subject that might engender not only discussion but action. To that end, LT reported that RF had circulated a draft questionnaire with Sustainability Committee designed to gauge public interest in a reading group devoted to climate change. The questionnaire is designed to broaden the scope from a traditional book club to a climate action club. In addition it can act as a recruiting tool for the committee. BdG informed committee that the questionnaire would be subject to Town Council approval before can be sent out.

ii. Emergency Power During Blackouts

WH: Have we explored End of Life Ordinance? Need for backup power for medical devices. KC: what about gas powered devices if have all electric ADUs? KC: noted that after each agenda item public comment should be solicited.

SU presented a spreadsheet providing information on options for power backup. This information has also been presented to the Emergency Response Committee. Committee discussed having some portable machines available to let from Town Center in emergency or to try out before purchasing. With 1800 households would require serious planning; to be equitable; therefore not a viable option at present.

Discussed using town center solar setup to allow resident to recharge portable devices.

JS described a 200V portable solar panel. Made for campers and off the grid folks. Made by Goal Zero company. Added advantage: will determine power usage of appliance that is plugged into the panel. Jason also suggested looking at PGE bill to determine usage before buying any device.

SU: Presented information on Li ion batteries in the \$2000 range.

Discussed how to share spreadsheet with public: mail-out or posted on PVTC web site?.

RF suggested adding more user friendly information for each option to aid residents in judging the usefulness of each option for their particular situation. Example: add temporal usage for each device. SU will modify spread sheet to reflect this type of information.

iii. New member recruitment

Climate action questionnaire and Emergency Backup Power spreadsheet will aid in recruiting new members. JS suggested meeting time inconvenient for 9-5 workers.

iv. PV Donates

Town Manager Jeremy has list of potential items. Portable YETI suggested. Large or small?

Howard Young of Building and Grounds could use a manual switch for town solar system. Brandi will explore this complex issue.

v. Misinformation Response. On hold.

vii. Budget

Changes approved.

New Business

Next Steps on Smart Water Meters

BdG: PUC approved smart Meters for Bear Gulch District on March 18th. Nothing new to report

Announcements. Next meeting May 17, 2021.

8. Adjournment