



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021 7:00 PM
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://us06web.zoom.us/j/87301464897?pwd=THdEcE1EWk1FbkhmVUIqaG5nVjVRUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 0146 4897

Password: 645350

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 July 19, 2021 Minutes
4. Introduction of new member: Scott Elrod
5. Updates:
 - a. Update by Maryann
 - b. Update by Brandi
6. Old Business:
 - a. Next steps on Blackout Protection
 1. Review and authorize purchase of solar and battery-operated generator
 2. Draft flyer
7. New Business:
 - a. Planning for October Town Picnic
 - b. How to deal with drought
8. Date and Topics for Next Meeting
 - a. Next meeting: September 16, 2021, 7:00 pm
9. Adjournment



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

SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84055749529?pwd=bHlxdHI3T2QwaG5qSDZaWDhMdmpr2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5574 9529

Password: 965753

1. Call To Order
Meeting at 10:33 am
Attendance: Loverine Taylor (Secy.) Rebecca Flynn, Walt Hayes, Stefan Unnasch, Maryann Moise Derwin, Brandi de Garmaux.
Community/Guests: Judith Murphy, From Cal Water: Dawn Smithson, Susan Cordone, Mike Stavanus.
2. Oral Communications.
none
3. Approval of June 21, 2021 Minutes
minutes approved with one minor addition.
4. Presentation by CalWater on two main subjects:
 - (1) Conservation programs /rebate opportunities presented by Susan Cordone, Conservation Coordinator.
 - (2) Current status and technical challenges of installing Smart Meters in Portola Valley presented by Mike Stepanus, Operations Supervisor.
The slide deck will be made available to BdG by Susan Cordone.
Highlights:
Two modalities drive the conservation programs at Cal Water: Device-driven Conservation and Behavioral Conservation. Cal Water received CAPUC approval to implement Rule 14.1, which details the Staged Mandatory Reductions and Drought Surcharges associated with its Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
All of the current Conservation Programs are described at <https://www.calwater.com/conservation/resources>. Many programs are free such as Smart Landscape Tuneup. Two new programs launched in July 2021 are the Turf Replacement Rebate and the Drip Irrigation Conversion.
Infrastructure issues were presented including Main Replacement Schedule, the plans to replace aging water mains in Bear Gulch District.

The program to install new solid state Smart Water Meters requires the migration from the current AMR to AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) which has the capability to acquire >35,000 reads 24/7. Technical and practical details such as safety and access during the install were presented. The current emphasis is the hiring of staff to install at least 2566 meters at an estimated cost of \$1.8M. The particular conditions in Portola Valley such as large parcel size and meter box siting are obstacles to overcome. The primary concern of Cal Water is employee safety. Implementation in the field is estimated to take about 1 year.

RF questioned the data upload frequency and use of AI in meter technology. The current AMR system uploads data 1x/24hr. A leak occurring just after data upload will not be noted for ~23 hr. Will the new system provide more real time data? MS response: plans are for a 4X/day proactive leak alert system. Badger's plans for incorporating AI in meter technology are unknown.

The committee shelved discussion of the information presented by Cal Water to a future time.

5. Old Business:

a. Update by Maryann

Greg Smith of San Mateo Health and Safety will present a talk on the use of non-potable water in residential and commercial settings, and state efforts to establish regulations for various non-potable end uses. This will be presented at the upcoming 7/21/2021 Zoom meeting of the Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP).

b. Update by Brandi

The updated Green Building Ordinance will be presented to the Town Council at the Aug. 11 meeting.

SB 1383, Organic Waste Regulations timeline and targets were presented. An important requirement of the bill is the use/distribution of the end product. Intern Cole Hackett is working to link food recovery programs such as Second Harvest with larger generators such as Roberts Market and the Sequoia. The role of the Sustainability Committee in educating the public on this issue was discussed. Keri Chinn of the town staff was noted for her ability to provide good graphics for any informational material.

c. Updates by Subcommittees

i. Blackout Protection: SU suggests purchase of a portable solar panel for generation and storage to lend out to residents (cost ~\$2000).

Some residents in Portola Valley are using Tesla Power Walls without solar. They charge battery when PGE rates are low, usually from midnight to 10am. Discussed best time to charge. Start at midnight, have full power at 10am. Committee noted that best charging time to mitigate climate effects is 7am to 3 pm.

Discussed making the spreadsheet of devices/costs/recommendations of emergency power resources compiled by SU available to the public via the town web site. Needs to be user friendly. WH and SU will coordinate with KC of town staff to prepare this information.

ii. Climate Change Reading and Discussion Group

No report.

6. New Business:

a. Formation of Water Conservation Subcommittee

After discussion the proposal to have a separate water conservation subcommittee was rejected. RF will take lead on the subject and the entire Sustainability Committee, plus interested outside individuals, will participate.

b. Discussion on State Mandate to Reduce Water Use by 15% and Initial message to Community on most effective Water Conservation Measures.

Discussion included the observation that peer to peer pressure/information is the most effective way to get individuals to take action. Will be continued at next meeting.

c. Committee Participation in "PV Live Revive" (see attached)

It was noted by RF that participation in this event involves a lot of work. Possible subjects the Sustainability Committee might provide include info on irrigation options (RF), power backups (SU) and a Climate Action Change Book List (LT). WH will follow up.

7. Date and Topics for Next Meeting - Thursday, August 19, at 7 pm

Scott Elrod has applied to join committee.

8. Adjournment 12:02 pm

Blackout Protection

When you read about the horrific disasters predicted for uncontrolled climate change, it's easy to feel discouraged by not having a way to contribute to avoiding those changes. As it turns out, dealing with the issue of power blackouts gives you a clear way to solve a local problem while contributing to a solution of the larger one.

One major step toward ending climate change is to stop every use of fossil fuels and electrify everything with renewable energy. Given that goal, how are the owners of an all-electric home supposed to deal with a power blackout?

The one thing they should not do is to use a gas-powered generator, which is a heavy user of fossil fuel.

So what *should* you use?

Most blackouts last for a relatively short time. In that case, unless you have an immediate demand for something significant, you can get by with battery-operated lanterns like the one in exhibit A, which cost less than \$10 each.

If the blackout lasts for a longer time and you're concerned with items in your refrigerator but have no other significant immediate demand, you might need a

small battery-operated generator, which would cost approximately \$__ to \$__. (A gas-powered generator would cost less, approximately \$__ to \$ __, but you can consider the difference a part of your contribution to maintaining a habitable planet.)

If you do have a significant immediate demand, e.g. if you are working at home, you would need a larger system, which would cost approximately \$___ to \$___, with the same moral choice applicable on cost difference as applied to the smaller system.

In any of the choices described above, you can help avoid blackouts by (1) using solar to charge the battery; and (2) reducing your load on the grid by running power-using devices mid-day, when solar produces the maximum.

If saving the planet isn't enough to persuade you to avoid buying a fossil-fueled generator, consider the other good reasons for avoiding them. They (1) are dangerous, especially around children, (2) emit toxic gases, and are (3) smelly and (4) noisy.

The Town has a medium-sized solar and battery-powered generator available for inspection.

Get one today!