



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2022, 7:00 PM
Special Videoconference Meeting

SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA

Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory: On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. 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/84153930202?pwd=S3BWUGJ0NXJYYXBrbUZoSmIxM1Y5UT09>

Meeting ID:

841 5393 0202

Password:

123233

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. Introductions
4. Approval of 2-17-2022 Minutes
5. Old Business **Italics denotes the primary focus anticipated for the meeting*
 - a. Updates from Maryann
 - b. Updates from Brandi
 - c. Updates by Subcommittees, if any
 - d. Website Progress Updates, if any
 - e. Advertising for seminar in April
 - f. Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee of Committees news, if any
 - g. *Priorities for 2022* (Pre-read included on 2nd page)*
6. Next Meeting and Proposed Agenda Topics: April 21, 2022, 7 pm
7. Adjournment

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE POTENTIAL GOALS 2022

1. Update Website with actionable information to reduce GHG and water usage
2. Community Education : PSAs (monthly) to encourage GHG and water reduction
3. Sustainability Book and Podcast Club (Need facilitator and rules. Chapter a week. In depth sharing.) (minor potential costs)
4. PV Seminar and Movie Series (in collaboration with Nature& Science, Cultural Arts, Conservation) (see prior budget)
5. Smart water meter usage with Cal Water education and outreach - postcard expense.
6. Energy Efficiency Goal for reduction in GHG for PV? How to measure
7. Smart Meters and gadgets
8. Drought Action
9. Ordinances and Regulations
10. Building Efficiency
11. Housing element
12. Green Building Ordinance
13. Climate Action Plan
14. Demos
15. OTHERS TO BE ADDED



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1. Call to Order 7:11

Present: Stefan Unnasch (vice chair), Rebecca Flynn (sec), Jason Saleh, Walter Hays, Loverine Taylor, Brandi de Garmaux (Town Consultant), Melvin Gaines (Asst Town Mgr)

Absent: Scott Elrod, Maryann Derwin, Zeenia Framroze

Community: Jeff Aalfs (councilmember). Anne-Marie Brest, Caroline Vertongen

2. Oral Communications

- a. Jeff Aalfs – provided update on PCE (Peninsula Clean Energy) – provides generation of electricity for San Mateo County. Serves 98% of accounts in SMC. 100% GHG free (not all renewable), planning for future to provide by 2025 100% renewable energy on a time coincident basis via solar, wind, and batteries. Also goal to help SMC be GHG neutral by 2035. Electric grid, building, and transportation are largest GHG emitters. PCE helping municipalities with reach codes that mandate all electric new building to avoid methane in houses and leakage in pipelines. PCE helping with EV-charging infrastructure at multi family complexes and in office parks, grocery stores, schools. PCE subsidizing electric bikes and expanding the program. Hoping for 400-500 additional bikes to replace car trips. PCE partnered with BayRen to replace gas HW with HPHW with rebates up to \$3000. Town will be getting data on aggregate PGE gas usage. PCE formed a group with 8 others (Cal Clean Power) to build a 69 MgW 4 hour battery storage plant which will improve the costs due to load shifting.
- b. CPUC issued a proposed decision about new contracts for net energy metering, cutting the subsidy back to solar homeowners. Debate still going on for final rule. Comments reopened. Recommend that homeowners install batteries.
- c. MP now has a burnout replacement for gas water heater with HPHW.

3. Introductions – Melvin Gaines is our new Assistant Town Manager.

4. Approval of 1-20-2022 Minutes – meeting minutes approved with change to comment from Caroline Vertongen on Water Meter RF-EM radiation and potential hazards. Her explanatory comment is attached to today's minutes.

5. Old Business **Italics denotes the primary focus anticipated for the meeting*

- a. Updates from Maryann - Confirmed via email that Josie Gaillard and Tom Kabat are scheduled to give at talk at the April 21 Sustainability meeting.
- b. Updates from Brandi
 - i. Cal water has not been able to hire new employees for smart meter installation
 - ii. PV applied for \$20K grant for a regional program for compost and education about contamination and for software for recordkeeping for SB1383 and AB1826, AB (mandatory commercial
 - iii. Upcoming code cycle happening in January 2023. Bayren has a March 17 9-noon talk on HP.
 - iv. No update on Climate Action Plan. Council priority. Next steps TBD. We do not have a Climate Action Plan currently. We had an intern working on it. Plan to use Ricap planning tools. We have already implemented many initiatives (low hanging fruit). The major GHG contribution in PV is existing building stock and transportation which are difficult to change or measure.
- c. Updates by Subcommittees, if any
 - i. Stefan and Scott : Finalizing written materials for the Solar battery loan system. Contractual language has been provided to the library. Hope to dissuade gas generators. Need to advertise it more. Plan to launch probably by the next meeting. Promotion to include actual users to provide benefits. Example for a bedroom islanding experiment.
 - ii. Loverine: email from Yvonne Tryce to see if we are interested in a joint project on composting.
 - iii. Loverine: *Living in the Anthropocene* (textbook for NY Climate change Class) . Planning book club.

- d. Website Progress Updates, if any
 - i. Scott/Walt – Climate Change and Energy – in progress
 - ii. Rebecca – Water - in progress (will provide updates to broken links to Kari).
 - iii. Stefan – Transportation – in progress, need to add info on EV rebates and location of charging stations, plugshare map, add a paragraph on GHG emissions and transportation.
 - iv. Waste (Brandi) - adding info about SB1383 and mixed compostable garbage regulations.
 - v. Clean Air - need a person to review.
 - vi. Dark Sky/Light Pollution – need a person to review
 - vii. Black out protection section needed - need a person to create new section
 - e. Upcoming seminar for April
 - i. April 21st meeting—Josie Gaillard and Tom Kabat are scheduled to give a presentation to talk about going all electric. – Committee needs to promote to the Town.
 - f. *Develop sustainability inputs to checklist to be used with ADUs, as input to Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee of Committees**
 - i. *Suggestions for checklist*
 - 1. *All electric building*
 - 2. *If garage adjacent: EV ready*
 - g. *Any other feedback for Committee of Committees**
 - i. *Concerns about excessive zombie office buildings in adjacent cities. Few opportunities for mixed use in Town.*
6. New Business
- a. Projects Sustainability Committee would recommend for PV Donates
 - i. Blackout protection bulbs
 - ii. Loaner Induction cooktop(s)
 - iii. Replacing Community Hall gas stove with an induction stove (and pots and heat plate).
 - iv. Graywater demonstration project from the sink water near playground.
 - v. Native planting and freebies and soil (in better rainfall year)
 - vi. Solar charging station at the Town Center (as permanent demonstration and for emergency prep purposes) or Triangle Park for laptops and phones
 - vii. Solar EV charging stations
 - viii. EV truck for Town
7. Next Meeting and Proposed Agenda Topics: March 17, 2022, 7 pm
- a. Committee priorities for the next year (Members to finalize activities for 2022-2023. Committee members should review the planning budget attached and be prepared to commit to multiple activities as lead or helper.)
 - b. Website update – (RF to check with Kari about website analytics.)
 - c. Composting seminar with Nature Committee, report from Loverine
8. Adjournment at 8:33PM



Town of Portola Valley

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Committee/Commission:
Sustainability Committee

Submitted by: _____

I T E M #	BUDGET REQUEST OR ITEM DESCRIPTION/ACTIVITY: Please describe your budget request as clearly as possible.	ADOPTED 2019-20 BUDGET	ADOPTED 2020-2021 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET	FUTURE YEAR BUDGETS *			N o t e s
					2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Garden Tour 2022	\$1,500		\$1,500	\$1,500			
2	Education & Outreach - social media ads/printed materials/banners/mailer	\$1,500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000			
3	Table at Earth Fair or Other Climate Change/Earth Day Activity	\$600		\$600	\$600			
4	Virtual Technology Tour - EV/Battery Backup with Raffle	\$1,000		\$500	\$500			
5	Loaner Solar Panel/Battery Backup for Sustainability/Emergency Prep			\$2,000	\$500			
6	Raffle or Giveaway for Sustainability/Emergency Prep Tool to promote event attendance and/or energy/water efficiency			\$1,000	\$1,000			
7	CalWater Smart Water Meter Implementation - Promote/Educate	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			
8	Film/Lecture Series & Special Hands-On Workshop	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$2,500			
9	Supplemental Books for Climate Action Book Club	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500			
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$10,600	\$4,000	\$10,600	\$9,100			

* Future Budget Requests are merely estimates for capital items (ie. furniture, computers, trucks, roads, etc.) that you anticipate purchasing/building in future years. Future year budgets are not binding on the Council, but provide a heads-up for possible costs in the future.

Dear Chair Unnash and Members of the Sustainability Committee,

Thank you for your time and dedication 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.

That Sustainability Element was created in 2009 - and among its goals is to develop programs that educate residents and / or local professionals on best practices in resource use and efficiency.

However the Sustainability Element also has a **safety component** that is well outlined and in some cases well documented with full analysis and studies.

Many residents have addressed the health risks associated with smart meters when PG&E introduced the plan many years ago. Like many PV residents, I have shared my concerns over the years with the Sustainability Committee, Town Council and many others.

Today you are discussing the implementation of smart meters

Smart meters might detect water waste, but only if CalWater acts when it sees a spike in water consumption. It is my experience and the experience of many others that CalWater does not care. Residents of Palmer Lane have had a variety of issues with CalWater - the most recent example started 4 years ago and the issues are still not all solved.

Since the Sustainability and Safety Element were established (2009 and 2010) we, California residents, have been exposed to more and more RF radiation since the use of cell phones, wireless connections, smart meters etc...

There are many studies about the health risks associated with smart meters e. g. This one from the Cancer Society

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/radiation-exposure/smart-meters.html>

Or the studies by Berkeley Professor Joel Moskowitz, PhD , who warns us about the health effects of electromagnetic radiation exposure from cell phones, cell towers, WI-FI, Smart meters and other wireless technology including 5 G, the fifth generation of cellular technology. Electromagnetic Radiation Safety.

So I hope you will review the advantages and the disadvantages and educate the residents of Portola Valley about the health risks and effects of Radio Frequency radiation exposure.

Thank you,

Caroline Vertongen

From: caroline Vertongen
Subject: Sustainability Committee [DO NOT CHANGE SUBJECT LINE]
Date: February 11, 2022 at 8:29 PM
To: sustainability@portolavalley.net



Good evening Chair Elrod and members of the Sustainability Committee,

I just received the minutes of your last meeting in January and would like to correct the public comments made under item 3.

I did express my concerns about RF emissions which cause cancer - the minutes do not accurately report these concerns.

I am not sure you actually received my email since I was not able to attend that meeting and since I did not receive an acknowledgment - but here is that letter again:



PV sustainability
1/2022.pdf

I would appreciate a correction in the minutes and hopefully the committee will discuss these concerns,

Thank you,
Caroline Vertongen
Long time PV resident Palmer Lane