



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**Sustainability Committee Minutes**  
**November 17, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**

**Scott Elrod**, Chair  
**Jason Saleh**, Vice Chair  
**Rebecca Flynn**, Secretary  
**Ronny Krashinsky**, Member  
**Loverine Taylor**, Member  
**Anita Wotiz**, Member

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

**7:02 PM**

**Scott Elrod**, Chair

**Jason Saleh**, Vice Chair

**Rebecca Flynn**, Secretary

**Loverine Taylor**, Member

**Ronny Krashinsky**, Member, 7:03pm

**Anita Wotiz**, Member, 7:03pm

**Town:** **Maryann Derwin**, Town Council, **Brandi de Garreaux**, Town Consultant

**Community:** **David Cardinal**

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.*

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

A big thank you to Maryann Derwin for her service to the Sustainability Committee as this is her last meeting.

**4. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Book report from Lovey Taylor on Fostering Sustainable Behavior by Doug Mackenzie Moore. Handbook for professionals and community activists who design programs to change people's behavior around sustainable living habits. Community peer pressure is a good way to achieve people's behavioral change. Information-based programs are utter failures. Consumptive lifestyle images Pick a creditable behavior to change, identify barriers and benefits. Examples of neighbors doing something. Key for us would be having residents write up their experiences and anecdotes around electrification and sustainability. Having a house tour of energy efficiency. Richard Crevelt has given tours of energy efficiency features in his home. Place the information about home ambassadors of electrification experiences on the website. JS: need an emotional connection to a person or to the earth. BdG and MD attended meeting on behavioral sustainability.
- b. [Study finds billionaires emit a million times more greenhouse gases than average | CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/07/world/billionaires-greenhouse-gases-climate-intl)  
(<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/07/world/billionaires-greenhouse-gases-climate-intl>)

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Minutes of 10/20/2022.
- b. approval of minutes to include Caroline Vertongen's emailed comments and attachment

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Updates from Brandi
  - i. Smart Water Meters - AMI Pilot Project with CalWater—working with CalWater to re-start installation; thanks to Rebecca and the committee's feedback, those who had Flume will be able to keep them with their current meter. New smart AMI meter readings will be four times a day during week (once a day on the w/e). Customers will receive a letter in advance of installation, as well as a door hanger before and after installation. Working with CalWater on outreach materials to post on Town's webpage and in Town Newsletter. See further comments under MaryAnn's section

- ii. Climate Action Plan 2030—developing Project and Outreach Plan - going to begin initiative with Launch at Town Council Meeting in February and then engage Sustainability Committee and wider community; continuing to work with County Consultant to understand forecasting tool and quantifying existing initiatives.
  - iii. SB 1383—State's Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy targeting organic waste disposal and surplus food—continuing to work with Town Attorney, County and CalRecycle to understand implementation and compliance; working with Town Attorney and GreenWaste to develop outreach plan for requirements that go into effect in July 2023.
  - iv. Green building amendments and electrification of existing buildings —Town Council approved amendments as outlined at last Sustainability Committee meeting, with provision to allow projects approved prior to January 1, 2023, to follow existing requirements. Brandi and Building Official working with Planning Staff to develop FAQ, Overview, and additional materials to assist with outreach and implementation; materials will be posted to Town website once developed. Also developing outreach materials and webpage on rebates and opportunities for electrification.
  - v. Disposable Foodware Ordinance—continuing outreach to impacted businesses.
- b. Updates from Maryann  
RMCP committee – PCE presentation on 2035 decarbonization—plan to deliver 100% clean energy every hour of the day. A large number of incentives are available for appliances. Pushing home electrification, decarbonization, reach codes, transportation decarbonization. Pushing electrification of 100-amp homes such that you don't have to upgrade the panel so that you don't have to deal with PGE. See presentation in the Resources section of the Town Website under Government, Sustainability Comm. Tom Kabat presented about the 10 residential case studies of electrification. See PowerPoint in the Resources section of the Town website under Government> Sustainability Committee.  
Resources: Menlo Spark, The Switch is On (lists of contractors).  
BAWSCA: Water agencies: Still in a drought. Good storage levels in Bawasca area except the water bank. SFPUC has voluntary 11% rationing. Statewide reservoirs are low. Conservation is tracking close to 2015, so a pretty good conservation effort. One Water workshop for regional collaboration – recycled water, groundwater extraction, etc. – if all projects were implemented could save 33 million gallons of water a day in the Bay Area!  
CalWater: new AMI smart meter program: will be read 4x/day during week, weekend 1x/day (limits due to battery on the unit). If you have a Flume, you can keep it instead or they will give you \$50 to switch. Cal Water will send a letter prior to the installation. Brandi following up with Cal Water about outreach materials. Dave Cardinal: Also cost issue for cellular service such that Cal Water has to pay for each reading of the meter, hence the limit on the number of readings daily.
- c. Report on November 16, 2022, joint meeting between representatives of three PV Town Committees (Sustainability, Conservation, Nature & Science) and the Woodside committee responsible for related issues (Jay and Scott): JS: Woodside is doing program to eliminate pesticides, many engaging programs, complementary programs to PV, brochures sent out to the entire Town about pesticide elimination, backyard habitat, wildlife corridors. Potential for returning Earth Day. BdG recommends a Film Series instead of an Earth Day. MD interested as well in a Film Series.
  - d. Review ongoing effort to issue “Public Service Announcements” on PVForum (November – Greenhouse Gases, Scott)  
Scott working on electrification and addressing issues brought up on the PVForum, starting with a confession, personal story on his efforts to electrify.

- e. Develop any questions for Town staff and external consultants related to the Safety Element, due by December 2.
  - i. What information and policies actually belong in a Safety Element? Is the SE only for immediate safety issues such as storms caused by climate change, or should it also include policies to prevent long-term climate change? Do we want to also focus on reducing GHG emissions as much as possible today to reduce the effects of even more severe climate change in the future?
  - ii. Do water conservation (P-81) and GHG reduction (P-83) actually belong in the Safety element? They seem more suitable for the Sustainability Element?
  - iii. Most policies don't seem specifically related to climate change, but rather generically apply to disaster planning and hazard mitigation. For example, P-79 "Prepare the Town for post-disaster recovery through proactive planning", and many others (P-72, P-73, P-74, P-76, P-77, P-78, P-79). Should these be in other sections such as emergency management instead?
  - iv. Some policies in this section seem very vague compared to other sections. For example, P-72 "Prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations affected disproportionately by hazards and disasters.", among others. Should the policies point to more specific actions that the Town should take?
  - v. Is it appropriate that the climate description covers SMC broadly rather than PV specifically? For example, "The Coastside area experiences a marine climate...", etc.
  - vi. P-82 calls out San Francisquito Creek, which seems to be an issue for San Mateo County safety rather than PV. Does it belong in our SE? And/or should other PV creeks/issues be included?
  - vii. In A-84-1, why is there a desire to have an independent Climate Adaptation plan, rather than adapting the relevant Safety Element sections for wildfire, flooding, etc.?
- f. Update on new member search
  - i. One potential candidate didn't want to deal with contentious issues about electrification aired on the PVForum.
  - ii. Add a message about the search for a new member to the PSA.
- g. Review committee priorities:
  - i. Community education: Public Service Announcements to encourage greenhouse gas and water use reduction
  - ii. Smart water meter usage with Cal Water: education and outreach
  - iii. Climate Action Plan
  - iv. Existing building stock electrification ordinances
  - v. Demonstration units – Induction stove top, backup power, smart meter gadgets
  - vi. Preparing for drought - including update to MWELo and drought sections on Town website
- h. Prepare inputs for January 2023 Committee Workshop Regarding Major Town Council Projects and Expenditures for FY 2023-24
  - i. Defer to December
- i. Create recommendations for a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (WELo) update; form a working group with Conservation and Wildfire Preparedness Committees (Lovey)

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Decide whether/how to participate in Wildfire Preparedness Committee event on Earth Day (April 22, 2022) at Town Center.
  - Event on Earth Day. Fair and lectures at Town Center and vendors. 10 am-2 pm.
  - Link between climate change and fire severity. Could propose a lecture – speak to MJ Lee. LT: New Sustainability School at Stanford might provide a speaker.
  - SE to reach out. Sustainability Committee decided to participate.

## 8. NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS

- a. Dec PSA – Ronny – tech devices
- b. Future PSA—Address reasons to electrify

**9. ADJOURNMENT at 8:37 pm**

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is December 15, 2022, at 7:00 PM.