**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes-Roundtable**

**3/5/19 6:30pm Ramsdell Room**

**Present:** Selectmen Agoglia, Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Pearson, John Trickey, Chief Ray Murphy, Chief Gary Thomann, Amy & Randall Spaulding-Fecher, Bill Martell, Judy Eiseman, Stan Swiercz, Gayle Barton, Gail Kenny, Bill Pula, Facilitator Steven Botkin, and Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Pearson opened at 6:30pm welcoming everyone. Roundtable event an opportunity to build town-wide commitment and develop a plan to reduce carbon footprint. Spring Town Meeting 2017 article 45 tasked all boards and committees to implement measures that conserve vital water and energy resources, and minimize carbon emissions. The meeting therefore be dedicated to collectively discussing and brainstorming around reducing carbon footprint both personally and as a member of a Pelham Board/Committee/Department.

**Introduce Facilitator-Steven Botkin**

Selectman Agoglia introduced Steven who is a Pelham resident who volunteered to serve as the facilitator and share his vast experience as a consultant. Having a facilitator allows the Board of Selectmen members to fully participate as listeners and contributors for maximum productivity.

**Overview and Introductions**

Meeting agenda reviewed. Participant introductions. Dyads followed with 4-minute discussions of two questions; how individual/family is personally impacted by climate change and what ways might Pelham be impacted by climate change in the future. Contributions focused on physical and psychological impacts; anger, guilt, generational impacts, understanding the serious nature of climate change. It is helpful to create networks of people and feel part of a group building sense of collective commitment.

**Presentations**

Energy Committee Chair shared initiatives aimed at reducing the town’s carbon footprint. The roof project on the Community Building has produced a fuel savings of 16% and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 21%. Two lighting upgrades in 2000s and 2018 have produced a savings of 4%. Town will be eligible for more grants when energy savings surpasses 20%. The Community Building and School were previously identified as heating and cooling centers and more exploration is planned. The heating and cooling system in the Community Building is approaching 20 yrs. Therefore new systems; heat and air source pumps; are being investigated and designed for the space. A $250k grant is available from the State’s Green Communities grant program and the EC will be applying. Photovoltaic (PV) is being researched for the Community Building and School for generation and storage potential (battery) which could potentially save 51% on fuel use. EC is looking into designing an upgrade for electrical and sensors in the Community Building and designs with built-in generator; potential cost reduction by 25%. Long range plan to design solar mounted on the School (Community Building was not a good candidate due to strength of roof). Funds leftover from the META grant will be applied for designs for ground mounted solar; covered walkway, canopy over library parking lot. Solarize hot water program offered discounted pricing in previous years. Report for Pelham identified 6 households who participated. Joint Community Choice Aggregation being explored between Northampton, Amherst and Pelham exploring local energy production and efficiency. Grant received to hire consultants to assist with this work. Overall goal for Pelham’s green campus identified over 40% of the Towns’ costs are due to transportation and vehicle energy use. Pelham is eligible for grants to refurbish the Community Building and potentially explore expansion. Grants are also available to replace the Library sprinkler system.

Selectman Ribeiro reported on the MVP Action Grant and the concepts of resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation based primarily on three parts; Resilient Roads, Resilient Campus, and Resilient Communication. Connect Pelham is the task force group that formed to manage the Resilient Communication piece. The next Slate newsletter will have the link for the Connect Pelham survey. Upcoming planned encounter to connect 6th graders in the Pelham School with elders in town for an interview and discussion of climate change events that may have impacted them. David Rabinovitz will capture the event by video as an educational piece to share.

**Brainstorming Ideas**

Small Groups Round One-Groups formed. Responses written on flip charts. Question: What could we do in Pelham to reduce our carbon footprint? Ideas from each group shared. Joulebug-website to track personal carbon footprint. Attached to these minutes are the nine photos of the posters the groups produced.

Break-10 minutes. Judy Eiseman, John Trickey, and Bill Martell left the meeting.

Small Groups Round Two-Groups formed again. Responses to 2 questions: What questions need to be answered to decide if we want to pursue this idea and which 3 ideas would your group prioritize? Create list and prioritize.

Note: ‘Button Up Northampton’-audits to reduce carbon footprint

Themes, overlaps, criteria used: outreach, building community, costs, payback prospects, long term projects that impact behavior, impact, timeframe, actions, implementation within community, and is it realistic.

Participant reflections and thoughts on what each person and committee will begin to act on going forward after the roundtable discussion either personally/professionally: Look at website with carbon footprint tracking and see if that tool could be impactful at Town Meeting, solar on municipal properties, investment in renewable efficiencies, explore further net zero topic with Housing Committee, family member created educational podcast and share with community, research money saved on bills, learn about home energy audits and connect with neighbors for education, outreach on community garden, find a way to help the Elementary School address & educate other families with small children, educating community on what is going on; accessibility and stories of positivity, investigate grant opportunities, look at handpump on wells, create a buddy system for home audits for elders who may need support and guidance, solar municipal aggregated/locally produced hybrid municipal vehicles, share with neighbors and support the Board of Selectmen with process.

Board of Selectmen motioned to adjourn, unanimously approved at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Susannah Carey