

# City of Framingham

The City Council of Framingham



2020 OCT -03 AM 10:43

## ORDER NO. 2020-066-001 REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

UPON THE REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

That the City Council votes to establish a Sustainability Committee as outlined below and to amend the General Bylaws/Ordinances as follows:

SECTION 1. Add the following new section to Article II of the General Bylaws/Ordinances:

### **Section 25. Sustainability Committee**

25.1 The Framingham Sustainability Committee (FSC) is hereby established. The FSC will strive to make Framingham a more sustainable community through the consideration of practical new programs and policies as well as public engagement and outreach activities that seek to address environmental, resource, and energy challenges.

The FSC is expected to engage citizens in understanding sustainability principles and their role in building a more sustainable city, utilizing outreach and engagement programs to support residents, businesses, and other organizations. In addition, the FSC will act as a resource to the City, providing information and assistance on opportunities to enhance the sustainability and resiliency of municipal operations and promote environmental justice. The FSC shall provide recommendations to the Mayor, Energy Task Force and Sustainability Coordinator by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year in order to allow for the timely consideration of new programs and policies in the annual budget.

### **25.2 Definitions**

**Sustainability** – the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (derived from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development).

**Resilience** - the capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption (U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit).

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Climate Change - a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea level rise; ice mass loss in Greenland, Antarctica, the Arctic and mountain glaciers worldwide; shifts in flower/plant blooming; and extreme weather events (NASA).

Energy Task Force (ETF)– an internal energy working group, a group of city employees, made up of certain department heads and other individuals, or their respective designees, that meet no less than quarterly, to discuss and work together to advance the City's identified environmental and sustainability priorities. In addition to the sustainability coordinator, the members of the ETF shall represent:

- the capital projects and facilities management department,
- the department of public works,
- the parks, recreation and cultural affairs department,
- the Framingham Public Schools,
- any other city employee as the Mayor sees fit

Environmental Justice - the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies (EPA).

Renewable Energy - often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished (NRDC).

## 25.3 **Composition, Membership, and Terms**

25.3.1 The FSC is to be comprised of nine voting members appointed by the Mayor. The term of office shall be for three years, with initial appointments of one, two, and three years so that the terms of members shall be staggered.

25.3.2 Terms. FSC member terms shall coincide with the fiscal year (effective July 1<sup>st</sup>) and expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. At the start of each fiscal year, the FSC shall conduct an organizational meeting to elect from its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. The FSC will receive staff support from the Sustainability Coordinator. The FSC shall meet quarterly, or more frequently as warranted.

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- 25.3.3 In addition to having passion for sustainability and the environment, members of the FSC are preferred, but not required, to have demonstrable experience in areas such as environmental justice, environmental law, environmental education, corporate responsibility, environmental science, energy management, renewable energy, environmental health and safety, marketing and communications, green building, land use planning, water conservation, stormwater management, waste reduction, climate resiliency planning, economics, or other related fields.
- 25.3.4 At least one FSC member shall be a youth between 16 and 25 years old.
- 25.4 **Duties.** The FSC shall have the following responsibilities.
  - 25.4.1 Advising the Mayor and the Sustainability Coordinator on Framingham's environmental impacts, challenges, and opportunities as well as providing recommendations on municipal programs and policies to promote greater sustainability and/or resiliency;
  - 25.4.2 Promoting the adoption of and advocating the benefits of sustainability across all sectors of the community including residents, businesses, and other organizations;
  - 25.4.3 Serving as a resource for municipal departments, boards, commissions, and other committees regarding sustainability and resiliency challenges and opportunities;
  - 25.4.4 Supporting municipal sustainability and resiliency projects, programs, and initiatives such as waste reduction or energy efficiency efforts;
  - 25.4.5 To establish, document and maintain a set of short-term and long-term goals, which will be reviewed and updated annually as needed.
  - 25.4.6 To provide a written recommendation to the Mayor, Sustainability Coordinator, ETF, City Council and School Committee by October 1 of each year recommending new policies or programs ahead of the annual municipal budget process. The recommendation shall include the FSC's assessment as to the state of the city, in the area of Environmental and Sustainability initiatives, and (except for the first annual report of the FSC) the FSC's assessment as to the progress made towards the FSC's short-term and long-term goals since the previous annual recommendation was issued.
  - 25.4.7 Provide recommendations regarding related zoning by-law changes to the Mayor, Sustainability Coordinator, ETF and City Council by October 1<sup>st</sup> of

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each year or more often as needed.

25.4.8 Such other responsibilities as may be assigned to the FSC by the Mayor.

SECTION 2. Article I, Section 1.3.2 of the General Bylaws/Ordinances shall be amended by adding the Sustainability Committee to the list of appointed multiple-member bodies with information on the composition, duration of office, appointing authority and number appointed per year consistent with the terms of Section 1, above.

YEAS: Bryant, Cannon, Case, King, Leombruno, Long, Ottaviani, Shepard, Stefanini, Steiner, Stewart-Morales  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing

PASSED IN COUNCIL: NOVEMBER 5, 2020

A True Record, Attest:

12/2/2020

Date Approved

Lisa A. Ferguson, City Clerk  
Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

12/8/2020

Date Approved

Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor