**Meeting Notes\***

**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**10/11/17**

**Lower Level Conference Room**

**Dedham Town Hall**

Present: Chuck Kabat, Vice-Chair; Leigh Hafrey, Secretary; Clarissa Robyn; Matt Simonson; Emily Walton

With one of the eventual five committee attendees missing at the outset, the committee didn’t initially call the meeting to order. Instead, it invited guest Alex Kyriakos to speak about the issue of urban farming in Dedham.

Alex explained that he had just graduated with a degree in environmental studies from the University of Vermont. He noted that he was born and bred in Dedham, and believes that his home town would benefit from a commitment to urban farming. This would involve developing sites at schools, on vacant lots, or “shared yards” (yards that owners were willing to turn over in part to eager gardeners). Alex also raised the possibility of so-called freight farms, vertical hydroponic gardens created using freight containers. He stressed the value of localized farming, the social utility of volunteer opportunities, the benefit of additional town green space, and suggested that elective gardening classes in high (?) schools might meet the 40-hour requirement for community service.

The committee members responded with questions, observations, and suggestions, including a recognition that the Endicott estate plots are difficult to secure; a suggestion that victory garden plots might meet the desires of the town rather than a full-scale community undertaking; and the observation that individual class projects in schools were effective, but not always manageable for reasons of time and funding. It was also suggested that Alex talk with Joe Flanagan at the DPW about space availability. The committee thanked Alex for his attendance at the meeting, and Alex then departed.

With the five listed members now present, the committee retroactively called the meeting to order at ~7:45 pm. A general discussion followed about logistics for recycling day on 10/14: Emily and Clarissa will volunteer, and Chuck will stop in to coordinate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

\*Notes submitted 10/13/17 by Leigh Hafrey, Committee Secretary.