

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 27, 2010

Present: Stafford, Stoddard, Duffy (chair), Hart, Lennon, Ryan, Hultgren, Walton, Coleen Spurlock (guest), Lisa Spirito (guest), Michael Allison (guest), Jim Morrow (guest), Vicky Wetherell (guest), Ken Feathers (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

The December 9, 2009 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Members of the Open Space Preservation Committee briefed the committee on their role in creating a sustainable community. The Open Space Preservation Committee advises council on open space acquisitions and also reviews subdivision plans for the open space set aside. A set of criteria was developed for the most recent Plan of Conservation and Development (the Town's vision statement and guidance document). The criteria are used to evaluate proposed open space acquisitions. Two important features to preserve are woodlands, which protect water and air quality, and farmland. The Open Space Preservation Committee is also working on creating connections without the use of motorized transport. The sustainability committee could help with educating homeowners on how to steward their land. Joining large and small land owners together within a certain ecosystem to work on preserving the whole system was one strategy discussed. Working with local developers to help them understand the Town's vision and how the Town would like developers to participate in it is another critical way that the sustainability committee could offer help. Forest fragmentation mapping is a useful tool. Jim Gibbons, from the extension service, offers presentations on land development. The sustainability committee will review the open space literature to further familiarize themselves with information that is available to residents.

Lisa Spirito, a UConn student intern, reported on the first draft of the Small Town Carbon Calculator. The Town buildings were ranked by energy use and carbon dioxide output. The same data was gathered for municipal vehicles. It was suggested that the school buses be included in the vehicle data. The carbon dioxide output per square foot was calculated, but to accurately evaluate square foot production, the hours of building use needs to be included in the data. Stoddard stated that the Energy Star benchmark information includes this rating. Walton will check to see if Bill Hammon already has this information from the Siemens energy audit.

The committee discussed the best way to learn about and have input into the school building process. Since the school building committee is not available to brief the committee, it was suggested that committee members attend one of the four upcoming school open houses. After members have attended an open house, the committee will

decide on the next step. Stoddard will put together an outline of the kind of sustainability issues relevant to a building project.

Walton stated that the Town website is being revised. Walton recommended that certain departments – planning and zoning, maintenance, parks and recreation, public works, Downtown Partnership, for instance - should have a page devoted to their sustainable initiatives. The committee agreed that Walton should work with these departments to help create their own pages related to sustainability.

Duffy reported that at the one year anniversary mark, June 2010, the sustainability committee will need to present a progress report to the Town Council.

For the next meeting, February 24, 2010, WINCOG will be presenting their regional economic development plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk