

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 27, 2011

Present: Stoddard (chair), Matthews, Lennon, Miller, Hultgren (staff), Sam Shifrin (guest), Michelle Shifrin (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

Stoddard called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Hultgren described the plans for the intermodal center and parking garage that include parking spaces for car sharing and electric car charging stations. The top floor of the garage will be built to accommodate a future photovoltaic installation. Bike and bus use is the transit focus of the intermodal center. Existing bus routes will stop at the intermodal center. The Federal Transit Administration will fund information systems on kiosks and applications on phones about bike sharing, car sharing, bike routes, bus routes and schedules. The second floor will accommodate bike commuters with lockers and showers. There may be office space on the upper level of the intermodal center. The pre-cast structure of the garage is in the RFP stage. The intermodal center will be constructed after the garage structure is built – probably beginning in February 2012. The committee liked the thought that went into the intermodal center serving the various transit needs. Stoddard offered to write a letter to the Director of Planning that will endorse the design so far and raise questions about efficient heating/cooling, sustainable building materials and use of a LEED matrix. It was suggested that there is a deeper discussion on the design details at some point.

Sam Shifrin briefed the committee on the Mansfield Hollow Hydro project. Sam and Michelle Shifrin moved their business into the Kirby Mill in 1998 making custom designed machines. In investigating a small turbine to power the Mills operations, Sam a mechanical engineer, was disappointed with what was available. He has since designed a turbine, combining robotics with electronic controls, with patent pending and approved by the DPUC as a class 1 renewable energy. Their hope is that this design will make hydro power much more available to old mill sites. Their business, Mechatronic Energy Systems, LLC received a demonstration grant from the Clean Energy Fund to build five turbines that will produce 100 kilowatts of energy each at Mansfield Hollow. It is estimated that the hydro system will produce 2.3 million kwh/year, powering the businesses in the mill and surrounding 200 homes. Currently, all contracts have been reviewed and all permits are in place; as soon as financing for the project is established, they will be ready to start the site construction. The turbines and the head gate are under construction. The conditions established under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license include a fish passage installation if Mansfield Hollow Dam installs one. The US Fish and Wildlife Service require that eels must be trapped and released at the boat launch twice a year. Eight years after they are released the eels will begin to come downstream; the hydro intake will need to be lit. The effect on fish habitat was studied extensively to determine minimum flow. The hydro system will be inoperable in August as there is not enough flow. But based on the studies, the minimum flow should actually increase fish habitat. The business plan is to turn the Kirby Mill into a hydro research and development facility and use Mansfield Hollow Hydro as a demonstration site. The Shifrins are looking to partner with the Town. Through a Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECCB) established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Town has the ability to get a zero interest bond to lease the Mansfield Hollow Hydro property and the FERC license. The operational cost of the project is estimated to be \$125,000 per year. The Town currently pays a 9 cents/kwh generation fee. Under this bonding arrangement, the Town would pay 5.5 cents/kwh, a 39% savings. The total project cost is 2.6 million dollars, necessitating a 2.15 million dollars bond. The

detailed financials have been given to the Town Manager for review. The committee expressed interest in the project and a continuing dialogue.

The minutes from the March 23, 2011 meeting were approved.

Walton will follow up with Bill Lennon's appointment to the Four Corners Advisory Committee.

Walton asked members if the meeting could be moved to the second Thursdays of the month at 5 pm. Hart is unable to attend on Wednesdays and would like to participate. Walton will check with members not present and set the next meeting date based on their feedback.

The meeting was adjourned 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton