

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 15, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Kristen Schwab, Paul Shapiro, Holly Matthews, Bill Lennon, Julie Sherman, Matt Hart, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 by chair Stoddard.

The January 18, 2012 minutes were approved by Shapiro/Schwab.

Shapiro and Matthews presented information on the status of the school building project. The Board of Education is recommending that the Town proceed with the construction of two new elementary schools. The Town Council is considering two of the original five options. As a referendum is desired for spring 2012, the Town Council is prepared to decide after the public hearing on March 5, 2012 whether to renovate the existing three elementary schools or to build two new schools. Shapiro circulated a memo from the Department of Facilities Management illustrating current energy use in the schools. While other sites have been considered, the Town has focused on building on existing school sites. The Board of Education recommends building both schools simultaneously.

Questions and thoughts that were raised by the committee:

What would be the impact of staggered construction?

Can this decision be delayed until the HUD grant completion of a master plan for the northern part of Mansfield?

What are the parameters being used for the locations of two new schools? The location of the building site is more important than the design of the school.

Is there a minimum lot size? What (who) defines the lot size?

Which school sites have access to public amenities and the greatest potential connectivity to its surrounding neighborhood?

Which locations support the vision of the Plan of Conservation and Development and the Strategic Plan?

What are the plans for the abandoned schools?

Stoddard, Schwab and Lennon volunteered to draft a recommendation prior to the March 5, 2012 public hearing for Town Council's review. A special meeting will be scheduled for the sustainability committee to discuss the drafted recommendation on February 29, 2012 at 5 pm.

Walton asked if the sustainability committee was interested in putting together a table display for the Climate Impact Forum on March 27, 2012. Painter and Kaufman will have a display of the HUD grant. Hultgren will create a display of the intermodal center. Walton will address the audience about the work of the three committees she staffs. Kaufman will speak about the work of the committees she staffs. Matthews will get a list of sustainability projects that the schools are doing.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton