

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 14, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Vera Ward, Kristin Schwab, Bill Hammon (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Kathleen Paterson (guest), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 by chair Stoddard.

Introductions were made.

The October 17, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Hammon and Walton reviewed FY 2010, 2011 & 2012 municipal energy data. Walton will bring a chart comparing building energy use/square foot/hour of use to a future meeting. The committee discussed whether Mansfield should make the Clean Energy Communities municipal pledge to reduce energy use by 20%. Hammon stated that since 2006 significant energy cuts have been made and to reduce energy consumption by another 20% would require a significant layout of money. Stoddard suggested performance contracting as a way to eliminate large capital expenditures. Hammon will be attending a DEEP sponsored performance contracting presentation. Members agreed that they should be advocates for energy reduction regardless of whether goals can be met. Staff was directed to find out the deadline for the pledge. The committee will take action on this during the next meeting.

The committee discussed whether powering the High School, Town Hall and Community Center with a fuel cell would make Mansfield a viable candidate for a DEEP micro-grid grant and loan pilot. Stoddard will make further inquiries about fuel cell funding and will find out if there will be another round of this grant as its deadline is January 3, 2013. It was suggested that micro-grids should be included in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Walton circulated information from Bike Friendly America that outlines the steps involved to become a bike friendly community. Hultgren stated that he would like the Town to become bike friendly within the next 12 months. Schwab worked with UConn students to produce a green map that includes the town and university bike system. Route 195 between Route 44 and Horsebarn Hill Road and South Eagleville Road between Separatist and Maple Roads are two gaps in the Town's bikeway system. Schwab also suggested classifying the typologies (urban versus rural, for instance) of the bikeways. Hultgren stated that an interactive bike map already exists; staff was directed to make it accessible from the Mansfield website. Stoddard circulated information on complete streets and suggested that the complete streets tool group could serve as a resource. Schwab may have a student that would be willing to work on a bike friendly community project. Discussion will continue at the December meeting with current bike maps.

Painter reported that comments on the water supply environmental impact evaluation (EIE) need to be received by December 4 for the Town Council to review during their December 10, 2012 meeting. Although MDC, Willimantic Water Works and CT Water Company were evaluated, the report did not select a preferred location. Bill Lennon, representative of the Four Corners Advisory Committee, and Vera Ward, Planning and Zoning Commission member, will be reviewing the EIE in their respective groups and report back to the committee. Painter stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission will be working on an overlay zone to prevent pipeline sprawl.

Kaufman stated that the HUD grant has been named "Mansfield Tomorrow, Our Plan, Our Future." January 17, 2013 is the tentative date for the first steering committee meeting. A steering committee representative from the Sustainability Committee will be selected at the next meeting.

Kaufman circulated an update of the committees she staffs. Of particular note, the Town has been awarded a DEEP grant to build a universal access trail, that is Americans with Disability Act compliant, around bicentennial pond which will provide access to Mansfield Middle School and 8.54 miles of park trails.

Walton stated that the 2013 meeting dates need to be arranged. It was suggested that the meetings be scheduled for 5:30 pm on the second Wednesdays of the month. Walton will survey committee members for their availability and send out a finalized notice to members.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2012.

Meeting adjourned 6:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton