

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 7, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Rich Miller, Kristin Schwab, Paul Shapiro, Doug Goodstein (guest), Coleen Spurlock (guest), Miriam Kurland (guest), Quentin Kessel (guest), Jim Morrow (guest), Linda Painter (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff), Larissa Brown (Goody Clancy), Leslie Oberholtzer (Goody Clancy), Michael Looney (Goody Clancy)

The meeting was called to order at 5:37.

The February 6, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted as amended on a motion by Schwab/Lennon.

Hultgren reported on the progress of applying to become a bike friendly community and member recruitment for an ad hoc bike advisory group.

The committee discussed whether the Town should participate in an Earth Hour City Challenge, sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, where the municipality would shut off all non-essential lights for an hour at 8:30 pm on Saturday, March 23, 2013. Although the idea has merit if it is done on a weekday with UConn's cooperation, the committee thought that it would have little impact on a Saturday evening.

Michael Looney from the Goody Clancy consulting team reported that he interviewed 23 people as part of his assessment of the Town's permitting process. The permit process was generally viewed favorably by the interviewees.

Leslie Oberholtzer stated that the zoning regulations are good at stating its intention of sustainability but the ways to arrive at it (the metrics) are unclear. She noted some positive zoning elements such as shared parking and the Storrs center development.

The committee was asked to define sustainability for Mansfield and identify important sustainability goals for the Town. Schwab suggested that there should be tailored regulations that go to different districts to differentiate and give balance to the villages in town. The Storrs Road corridor should reflect the contrast passing through various areas of town. The connections with UConn make Mansfield a regional center. Energy efficiency, renewable energy, local self-reliance, mobility without a car, careful land use, business development that fits in with the community, respect for diverse ecological systems, consideration of economic policies that affect taxation, maintaining rural areas and villages, wise water policies, storm water capture, support for farming, support for mom and pop businesses, and consideration of the public realm versus private development were some of the sustainability goals mentioned.

Oberholtzer suggested that the committee use the STAR community rating system to help in its definition of sustainability in Mansfield. Oberholtzer has begun categorizing an initial assessment of Mansfield by land uses, building and neighborhood form, parking, equity and

access, complete streets, heat islands, tree canopy, energy, food production, waste, storm water, and water. Goody Clancy will develop an assessment with recommendations for the committee to review.

The meeting is adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton