

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 8, 2013

In attendance: Matt Hart, Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Julia Sherman, Don Hoyle, Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff),

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 by Kristin Schwab.

Susannah Everett introduced herself as the Board of Education appointed representative. Walton will notify the Town Clerk of her appointment.

The approval of the April 10, 2013 meeting minutes were deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Painter reported on the Mansfield Tomorrow project. Of the 3,000 surveys sent out requesting comments on the goals of the strategic plan, 175 responses have been received. The economic development, housing and agriculture focus groups have been conducted. Painter has received the preliminary assessment tool from the consultants. Once she reviews it, the sustainability committee will be asked to comment on it. Painter reminded members that the assessment tool cannot dictate changes that alter the state building code, but the tool may serve as a way to introduce change at a state level.

Hart reported that the Town has not yet received a comprehensive proposal for the 2 million kilowatt Mansfield Hollow Hydro project. Further action cannot be taken until a complete proposal is received. Sam and Michelle Shifrin, the owners of the project, are interested in reduced permit fees, tax relief and a power purchase agreement. Although there is support for the project, there have been some reservations about giving the project tax abatement.

The committee evaluated the Planning for a Changed Climate program as being helpful in raising awareness of the extremes the region will experience in greater frequency. The program was taped and will be posted on the Mansfield Tomorrow website. The intent is to incorporate adaptation strategies into the final products of Mansfield Tomorrow.

Walton reported that 269 Mansfield and Windham residents have expressed initial interest in the Solarize project, leading the four Solarize communities. Of that, 14 contracts have been signed for a total of 91 kilowatts of new photovoltaic systems. Sherman is one of the 14 households that will have a ground mount system put up at her house. UConn will be hosting a Solarize lunchtime workshop on May 21 in room 304B of the Student Union. Walton circulated flyers.

The public meeting of the UConn Main Accumulation Area/Research Waste Storage Area had about 10 people in attendance. Hart reported that the town council will endorse the proposed site.

The Town Council proclaimed May as Mansfield Bike Month which coincides with E.O.Smith's bike to school week where students get a free breakfast. Walton will post the Bike Month information on the website and Channel 13.

The Town went out to bid for photovoltaic installations on the top of the parking garage and public works garage and at Mansfield Middle School. One bid was received and will be evaluated by the public works director, maintenance director, building inspector and finance director.

The next meeting is June 12, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned 6:51.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton