

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

July 10, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Julie Sherman, Paul Shapiro, Don Hoyle (guest), Cynthia vanZelm (guest), Lon Hultgren (staff), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 by vice chair Bill Lennon.

The approval of the June 12, 2013 meeting minutes were deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Painter reported that there were about 50 people at the June 18 open house – some younger adults and many of them new to the Mansfield Tomorrow process. Painter and Kaufman have been targeting outreach to young families, who have been the least engaged. The Mansfield Tomorrow advisory committee will review the draft proposal before going to a public hearing in January. The assessment tool may be ready for review by the committee at its next meeting.

Hultgren and vanZelm gave a power point presentation on the operations plan for the transportation center, which is under construction at the south end of the parking garage. The transportation advisory and parking steering committees will be reviewing the plan before it goes to the Town Council. The transportation center, expected to be completed in October, will provide commuters with a bus waiting and information area, bicycle share and storage area. Hultgren is working with bus companies to coordinate schedules and the next bus system. The intent is to offer alternatives to single car ownership by coordinating bike and car sharing with bus transit. A long term goal is to coordinate with UConn's bike share program. They are proposing that public works staff coordinates the functions of the transportation center for the first year to get it off the ground. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership staff would also provide management and support staff. Ultimately, they would like to hire a UConn research fellow to make the transportation center a leader in transit innovations. \$100,000 has been budgeted to operate the center, which would be coming out of the tax receipts from the downtown. The Sustainability Committee may be asked advocate for the benefits of the transportation center and using a UConn research fellow when it goes to Town Council.

The bike friendly community application has been reviewed by a bike task force and will be ready for the July application deadline.

Walton reported that with the unveiling of a new lease option, the solarize program has been extended to July 31, 2013. Fifty contracts have been signed, achieving the lowest price per kilowatt for everyone who is participating. The car sharing vendor, Hertz, has been asked if they will expand the fleet to include a pick-up truck share. There has been no response yet. Although participation is lower than Hertz's goal, the Chevy Volt has been in use consistently. It was suggested that the car share program is publicized again through various Mansfield media – Mansfield Patch, Independent news, e-mail notification. The Town of Mansfield has completed its first year participation in an electronics challenge to manage electronic equipment responsibly through purchase, use and disposal. The first year report illustrated sound municipal environmental management practices. For the second year, the Town has set goals to reduce paper usage and increase power management.

Painter attended the UConn reclaimed water facility open house, a facility which can handle 1 million gallons of waste water from Storrs Center and the University. The reclaimed water is potable, but at this time is being fed into the co-generation cooling system. The EIE record of decision will be presented to the UConn Board of Trustees in the first week in August.

It was decided to cancel the August meeting. Mike Dietz will be invited to attend the September 11, 2013 meeting to talk about climate change storm water management strategies.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton