

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting

August 27, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Vera Ward, Kristen Schwab, Matt Hart, Susanna Everett, David Freudmann (guest), Leigh Duffy (guest), Betty Wasmundt (guest), Susan Spak (guest), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Stoddard.

Introductions were made.

Hart and Painter framed the discussion of the water supply project. At the same time that the Town was looking at its water supply for future needs, the University of Connecticut was also looking for more water to support the tech park. It is estimated that the University will need 2 million gallon per day at full build up, and the current wells would not be able to supply this. The University had an environmental impact evaluation completed for three water supply proposals. Of the three, the University Board of Trustees identified the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) as the preferred option. The Connecticut Water Company currently operates in about in 50 Connecticut towns and has managed the University's systems over the past several years as well as small systems in Rolling Hills Mobile Home Park, the Birchwood Heights and Pinewoods Lane developments.

The Town retained its own legal counsel to focus on how the system could be governed as well as providing advice to the Town Council. Council's August 8, 2013 recommendation was to solicit feedback from key commissions and advisory committees.

Staff will draft a letter from the sustainability committee that recommends the agreement between the Town and the CWC places emphasis on the following:

- Water conservation , water reclamation and reuse, funding efficiency measures for new customers or renovations,
- Implementation of best management practices for energy use and water efficiency at their facilities and with end users,
- Implementation of best practices for storm water management,
- Routing the pipeline along Route 195 where there is the infrastructure to support smart growth patterns,
- The advisory committee should be tasked with promoting conservation measures and providing community education,
- The advisory committee should have regional representation (from source to service areas) and include environmental groups,
- The Town should have approval authority over future extensions, and
- A commitment to actively participate in regional water supply planning.

A special meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2013, in place of the regular meeting on September 11, 2013, at which time the draft letter to the Town Council will be reviewed.

Other agenda items will include comments on the assessment tool. The assessment material will be resent with the draft meeting minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton