

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
September 11, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Rich Miller, Vera Ward, Susannah Everett, Sean Santasiere, Don Hoyle, Linda Painter (staff),

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 by Schwab.

The June 12, July 10, August 1 and August 27, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by Ward/Shapiro.

Painter updated the committee on the adoption of the C-Pace Program and the change to automated collection of trash service. Stoddard arrived at 5:40.

Mansfield Tomorrow

By consensus, the committee agreed to discuss Mansfield Tomorrow before reviewing comments on Connecticut Water. Painter provided an overview of the project for new members and summarized the key elements of the draft Assessment Tool for discussion. The Committee identified the following key themes that they would like to see addressed as the tool is refined:

- *Sustainable Management of Resources.* The Committee would like to see a larger focus on sustainable management of natural resources as opposed to just preservation/protection efforts. For example, with 70% of statewide forest owned privately, it is not possible to protect through regulation and acquisition. Owners need to be educated on stewardship and sustainable maintenance practices. Policies should promote active, productive, sustainable use of land, including the value of multi-functional landscapes and human interaction with the landscape.
- *Connectivity.* The Committee discussed the importance of connectivity, both for ecosystems and human interaction. Key concepts included the need to create interfaces between public and private spaces, and recognition that community facilities are drivers for development. Placement of future community facilities can help to direct growth to appropriate areas and should be considered for their potential to provide linkages. The Committee agreed that connectivity should be added as a guiding principle for sustainability.
- *Innovation.* The Committee suggested that a category be added that addresses and encourages innovation in how we approach sustainability to make sure that we capture things that don't fit neatly into one of the other categories.
- *Incentives.* The Committee identified the need for a broader portfolio of incentives to be included in strategies, not just regulatory. Examples included creation of water budgets as part of water conservation efforts.
- *Education/Awareness.* In addition to policy/regulatory strategies, the Committee requested that the tool identify strategies to boost public education and awareness of sustainability concepts.

Painter noted that staff will work to incorporate these themes into the POCD which is currently being drafted. She expects to have a draft of the plan for Committee review and discussion in October. A revised draft of the assessment tool will be brought back to the community at a later date.

Miller left the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Connecticut Water Company

The Committee reviewed the draft memo to the Town Council prepared based on discussion at the August 27<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Schwab moved, Ward seconded approval of the memo as drafted. The motion was approved unanimously; Shapiro abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development