

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 10, 2014

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santasiere, Bill Lennon, Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Rich Miller, Erin O'Neill (guest), Addison Weinstein (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Joyce Rawitscher (guest), George Rawitscher (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Stoddard.

The June 25 and July 9, 2014 minutes were approved on a motion by Shapiro/Everett.

Erin O'Neill with Addison Weinstein from Next Step Living presented their company's whole home energy approach by providing not only home energy assessments, but also installations of insulation, replacement windows, photovoltaic systems and ductless mini split heating systems. They have partnered with communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut and would like to partner with Mansfield. Staff will look at the MOU they signed with the Town of Thompson, discuss it with the Town Manager and bring this information to a future meeting.

Members reported on various bike/pedestrian access activities. Stoddard stated that CRCOG is getting ready to bid on service for a "Gateways to UConn Corridor Study", and includes Routes 195 from I-84 in Tolland, 66 in Windham and 44 from I-384 in Bolton to 195. The study will include pedestrian and bicycle accessibility. Miller stated that there will be a 5 foot wide bike lane on the Hillside Road Extension that will connect with the bike path on Route 44. He also stated that the UConn master plan, which is underway, will have opportunities for public input. Miller will notify the sustainability committee when there are public forums. A complete streets policy and bike master plan has been included in the goals of the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan. Some of Schwab's students were involved in counting bikes at several intersections this week. A bike advisory group has started meeting, initiated by Lon Hultgren. CRCOG will assist in exploring striping a bike lane where there is water main construction on Route 195.

Miller reported that UConn is looking to replace steam lines with the savings from building energy efficiency measures. They are looking to enter into energy performance contracts for 1 million square feet of building space. Two more electric vehicle charging stations will be installed in the parking garage and be free of charge for the public.

Walton reported that a municipal action plan is part of the Clean Communities Pledge that the Town made in June 2013. TitanEnergy, an energy consultant used by the Town, has offered to draft a municipal energy efficiency action plan for review at the next staff sustainability management meeting. The draft will be discussed at a future meeting.

Everett stated that the Board of Education has not met this summer, but she will bring the idea of climate change themed school science fairs. Rawitscher reported on the upcoming Teale lecture series, in the Dodd Center, starting on Sept 25 at 4 pm. He mentioned the film, *Disruption*, which can be viewed at

www.watchdisruption.com that goes along with the climate change march that is scheduled in Washington, DC on Sept 21, 2014.

Walton reported on a few Solid Waste Advisory Committee-supported activities. There is an upcoming Repair Café in Willimantic. A new multi-family contract will be going into effect in December 2014 which will offer apartment and condominium owners the option of using distinctively different looking dumpsters for recycling. The intent is to raise the multi-family recycling rate of 12%. They are working on offering an organic land care workshop series in the spring. It was suggested that a future agenda item should include that organic land care strategies for municipal properties.

Future agenda items – forming a climate change committee, municipal sustainable land care, municipal action plan, partnership with Next Step Living, bike/pedestrian access.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton