

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
June 10, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Vera Ward, Kristen Schwab, Bill Lennon, Shawn Santasiere, Rich Miller, Boya Yuan (guest), Yilang Jin (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

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

The March 11, April 8 and May 13, 2015 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Ward/Lennon.

Santasiere reported on the activities of the Bike Mansfield.

1. They have started a monthly Sunday morning ride that goes at a moderate pace.
2. About 12 people participated in the first round of bicycle safety and maintenance classes that were offered this spring. A second round will be offered in July.
3. A complete streets policy draft has been edited and endorsed by the Transportation Advisory Committee and is now being reviewed by the Town Manager. It was requested that the sustainability committee have an opportunity to review the policy so that it can be endorsed by the committee.
4. Bike Mansfield is planning to meet with police officers this summer so that they can assist in promoting bike safety.
5. Bike sharrows will be repainted this summer.
6. The groups' next project is to create a draft bike master plan. Schwab offered to share UConn student Boya Yuan's bike master plan that she did for a school project.
7. Bike Mansfield has ordered 50 t-shirts that have "Bike Mansfield" on the front and "3 Feet Please" on the back.

Santasiere added that EO Smith had 50 participants in their bike to school week during the last week in May.

Schwab presented three different landscape plans for the Town Hall/Community Center area prepared by plant design students, Boya Yuan and Yilang Jin. Each plan showed variations in creating meeting places, keeping the memorial plantings, educating visitors about the Town's history, identifying a primary entry into the Town Hall, incorporating native and useful plants and creating better pedestrian/bicycle access. Members were impressed with the plans and particularly favored a plaza at the Route 195 Town Hall entrance that incorporates mulberry trees, a community garden on the Town Hall lawn that includes a cistern from roof run-off, converting the skate rink into a rain garden with a raised walkway, organizing areas of circulation, and offering a nature trail in the wooded area west of the Community Center. Schwab suggested phasing in the plan as repairs and funds become available. Yuan and Jin will work on the plans over the summer and come back to the committee with their refined ideas.

The committee reviewed letters of interest from George Rawitscher, Lyle Scruggs, Juliana Barrett, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Greg Anderson, Laura Cisneros, Timothy Vadas and Margaret Rubega who are interested in serving on an Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force. Santasiere stated that Gary Bent is also interested in participating. The committee recommended that all nine individuals be accepted as task force members. Walton will pass this information on to the Committee on Committees.

Walton reported that it was recently brought to her attention that the Town earned 3 kilowatts of solar power (or the equivalent of \$13,500) for its renewable energy and energy efficiency activities. The money can be spent on energy efficiency projects and should be spent this summer. Committee members were interested in using the funds to support some of the landscape ideas presented by Schwab, Yuan and Jin. Walton will inquire about using funds for sustainability projects and report back to the committee.

Vera Ward stated that she would no longer be serving as the Planning and Zoning Commission's representative to the committee but she would look for a replacement. She was thanked for her service.

Future agenda items include a discussion of committee goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton