

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 13, 2016

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Susannah Everett, Shawn Santasiere, Kay Holt, Rich Miller, Paul Shapiro, Cynthia vanZelm (guest), Peter Millman (guest), Steve Bacon (guest), George Rawitscher (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

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

The October 14, 2015, November 18, 2015 and December 9, 2015 minutes were approved on a motion by Lennon/Santasiere with one correction in the December minutes.

Steve Bacon, chair of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership's planning and design committee, and Cynthia vanZelm, Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, spoke about the planning and design committee's activities. The committee was formed to provide advice on the design of the Storrs Center construction projects. The committee developed building design guidelines and sustainability guidelines. The design guidelines are enforced by the building inspector. The designers have had to demonstrate that the plans are consistent with the sustainability guidelines. Reducing water use, storm water reduction and smart growth are some achievements of the project. With construction almost complete, the Downtown Partnership has turned to promoting alternative transportation options. Reducing waste, improved recycling, use of renewable energy and energy efficiency were areas identified as further opportunities to be sustainable. Walton will attend an upcoming meeting to talk about business recycling and the upcoming solar breakfast.

The solar incentive business breakfast is scheduled for January 26, 2016 (snow date January 28), in the Council Chamber from 7:45 am to 9:00 am. Flyers have been distributed to the Tolland and Windham Chamber of Commerce, and Millman has spoken to a number of Mansfield businesses. Stoddard, Lennon, Millman and Walton agreed to meet briefly after the meeting adjourned to finalize details.

The Town Council requested input from several town committees on enabling legislation that would allow municipalities to apply a conveyance fee on the sale of property that would go into a conservation fund. This concept, supported by CT Audobon, has been packaged as "project green space." On a motion by Miller/Holt the committee voted in support of Mansfield's method of preserving open space by bonding open space projects.

Walton asked if the committee would like to host an LED lighting fair. Members suggested having a lighting fair that focuses on a range of business lighting products. It was suggested to involve Storrs Center businesses. Walton was asked to explore the availability of incentives for businesses.

Rawitscher stated that the Climate Action Task Force is prioritizing climate related actions identified in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan chapter summaries. Once complete, it will be brought to the sustainability committee for review. It was suggested that the Planning and Zoning Commission's proposed zoning regulation changes should be reviewed in the context of the climate change.

Miller reported on the tremendous experience he and others had at the Paris climate change conference. The conference ended with a climate agreement that the USA and China joined. Miller was encouraged by UConn president Herbst's interest in the UConn group's experience. Miller agreed to give a presentation on the conference at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2016. Since Stoddard will not be available, Walton will find out if Schwab can chair. Walton was asked to determine if there will be a quorum at that meeting since the committee will be discussing the proposed zoning regulations changes. If there is not, then the meeting date may be moved to Feb 3 or 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton