

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting

July 13, 2016

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Sarah Munro, Bill Lennon, Peter Millman, George Rawitscher, Margaret Rubega, Gary Bent, Matt Hart, John Carrington, Allen Corson, Janell Mullen, Joe Bernatowicz (EMG), Mary Endsley (EMG), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by chairperson Stoddard. Introductions were made.

The approval of the June meeting minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Hart introduced the facilities study which is an audit of the condition of the municipal buildings with an analysis of current and future facility needs. The schools, parking lots and open land are not included in the study, but the schools are interested in conducting a similar study. The consulting firm conducting the study, EMG, has assessed each site and will be finished analyzing their findings by the end of this month. Joe Bernatowicz and Mary Endsley from EMG were on hand to address questions. They are looking at building energy use (kWh & BTUs) and opportunities to introduce renewable energy. They are using current climatic conditions, rather than projected climate change conditions, to evaluate efficiencies of systems. Opportunities for water harvesting is not part of the study. After a staff review, the study will be available for resident comments by late summer or early fall.

Hart stated that the solar installations on the bus garage, public works garage and landfill are on hold. The Town is in the process of hiring a law firm that is versed in renewable energy contracts. Hart wants legal assistance to create a comprehensive plan for municipal solar installations.

Hart walked the committee through the modified climate action priorities spreadsheet. A progress update column was added identifying where the Town has been taking action. After reviewing the Town's actions, the task force asked Hart how they might be of further assistance. Hart suggested identification of a few immediate priorities, champion initiatives before the town council, help with research and finding funding. Mullen stated that the matrix is a useful tool and hopes that it is kept updated.

Mullen gave an overview of the proposed changes to the multi-family housing regulations. Where there are now fragmented districts and dimensional zoning, the changes are an attempt to encompass a comprehensive view. A developer would create a district, for instance, in order to encourage a design that reflects and responds to the unique characteristics of a neighborhood. The comments from the committee and task force included: (1) the importance of having current flood maps to avoid development in flood-prone areas; (2) Create incentives for developers who are innovative; (3) Refer to Hartford's revised zoning regulations for good examples; (4) Require designers to meet a BTU per square foot index that guarantees performance; (5) Building performance targets should be net zero energy, zero waste and zero water use. It was decided that the minutes would serve as the Sustainability Committee feedback to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Sara Munro, welcomed as UConn's Sustainability Coordinator, will be the primary UConn representative to the committee; Miller will attend when he can. Rawitscher reported that UConn gave a grant to Julianna Barrett (task force member) and other professors to establish an UConn Climate Corps. This undergraduate program will assist Connecticut communities in adapting to climate change. The committee is interested in working with UConn on climate resilience.

Future agenda items include the facilities study and the future role of the climate action task force. The meeting in August was cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton