

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting

November 9, 2016

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santasiere, Peter Millman, Bill Lennon, Paul Shapiro, George Rawitscher, Margaret Rubega, Charlie Demurjian (guest), Noah Guarino (guest), Allen Corson (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

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

The September 14, 2016 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Millman/Lennon.

Director of Maintenance Allen Corson reported that the consultants, EMG, have completed their solar feasibility analysis of the municipal buildings. (The study does not include the schools.) Corson circulated a draft solar analysis of the animal shelter as an example of their reports. EMG will not be reporting on the feasibility of wind power, but they will be examining the feasibility of geothermal. It is anticipated that their analyses will be completed by the end of 2016. EMG will then be reporting their findings to the Town Council. Before all the reports are finalized, the sustainability committee would like to provide feedback. Corson agreed that once the consultants are finished, they should brief the committee. Walton added that the Town recently earned another \$4,500 through the clean energy communities program. This money will be used to purchase a mini split heat pump at the animal shelter, one of the feasibility study recommendations.

Corson stated that town staff has identified two law firms that can assist with putting together contracts for complex solar projects, such as a large installation at the transfer station. The Town Council will make the final selection. Carports and purchase lease agreement will be among the options that the firm will consider. Connecticut's small ZREC (zero emissions renewable energy credits) program will be taking applications in the beginning of 2017 and for mid to large projects, in the spring. It is anticipated that the Town will start working on these applications within the next few months.

At the last meeting, the Sustainability Committee requested that the Climate Action Task Force recommend two or three climate actions that the Town should begin to work on immediately. Instead of a recommendation of highest priority actions, Rawitscher circulated a statement from the Task Force. It states, "The magnitude and importance of the changes that climate change is imposing now, and will impose in the future, on Mansfield demands that we all be working on all fronts, at all times, to do all we can to mitigate and adapt." It goes on to suggest a series of climate change retreats for town employees, centered on a broad climate change action theme such as water, energy, transportation and land management. Members discussed and suggested working with the town manager to set up roundtable "listening events" with the town manager and relevant town employees and citizen experts from the Task Force/Sustainability Committee. The goal is to listen and learn from town staff and create an interactive process to help and support staff on climate change actions that are responsive to staff and town needs. Shapiro will arrange a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the Task Force statement and develop next steps. Stoddard asked that this statement along with the climate action priority spreadsheet be reported to the Town Council after meeting with the Town Manager.

Walton reported that Kristin Schwab made a presentation to the Town Council in September on the Town Hall/Community Center sustainable landscape design. The design was developed by Schwab's students with input from the Committee and staff. Based on Town Council's response to Schwab's presentation, the Committee asked for suggestions from Schwab on how to keep moving forward with the design ideas. Walton will follow up with her.

EO Smith Seniors, Charlie Demurjian and Noah Guarino, arrived at 6:30 pm to report on the November 5, 2016 LED bulb swap, which they helped organize. They enthusiastically shared the success of the five hour event. They reported that 115 people were served within the first hour. 300 households were served in total. The bulb swap was funded through an Eversource \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant. For that amount 5,988 bulbs have been allocated to the

Town. Following the swap, 4,468 bulbs are left. Members discussed having another bulb swap during the September 2017 Celebrate Mansfield Festival. Santasiere stated that the bulb swap is an excellent community service project for EO Smith seniors and offered to work with two seniors next year if another LED bulb swap can be held in the fall. Walton will find out if there is a deadline for spending the grant funds.

The committee decided to keep meeting on the same day and time of the month for 2017. Walton will send a 2017 meeting calendar to members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton