

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
Outside of Mansfield Town Hall
July 13, 2022

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Katie Fratoni, Peter Millman, Josh Walters, Matt Lisy, Susannah Everett, Emily Bigl (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by chairperson Stoddard. Walters was seated for Bill Lennon.

Introductions were made. Emily was welcomed to the meeting.

On a motion by Fratoni/Millman, the May 11, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

Lisy and Millman reported on their public comment advocating for solar canopies during the May Region 19 Board of Education meeting. Millman sent follow-up information to the Board about Hamden's solar canopies.

Update from the Director of Facilities Management on solar installations currently underway in town –

1. Landfill – 2,700 kW. The proposal has received Eversource backing. Next step - vendor to get permitting to start the project.
2. MMS – 92 kW rooftop. Will be installed in the next two months.
3. New Elementary School – 454 kW. School under construction now.
4. Public Works Garage – 86.51 kW through Solar MAP. Should be functional by the end of the summer.

Walton has been meeting with school administration to discuss zero waste actions for 2022/23 school year. Members agreed that creating a green team composed of staff and students could be instrumental in implementing zero waste strategies. Everett offered to speak to the new school superintendent about forming a green team(s). Nips money could be used as part of a matching grant, if needed.

Members discussed ideas for an activity booth at the September 24, 2022 Celebrate Mansfield Festival, yet everyone at the meeting will be unavailable to help on that day. Walton will ask Laina Hancock if she is interested. Lisy could help create the activity.

Members thoughts on “One thing that I’d like to contribute my time to over the next year.”

1. A brochure summarizing solar resources and incentives. (Millman/Walters/Fratoni)
2. Establish school green teams (Lisy)
3. Removing the disincentive of a higher electric rate for people converting to electric vehicles (Lisy)
4. Infrastructure bill funding opportunities (Walters)
5. Keep advocating for solar canopies. Look into network geothermal (Millman)
6. Waste reduction. Plastic bag ban compliance, take-out containers that are recyclable (Fratoni)
7. Walkable/bike-friendly community (Stoddard)

Emily reported that UConn has a ride day for community justice. Could Mansfield be a part of this?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton