

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 24, 2010

Present: Duffy (chair), Britton, Stafford, Miller, Hart, Stoddard, Ryan, Matthews, Hultgren, Walton, Fred Baruzzi (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The January 27, 2010 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Introductions were made and new committee member, Holly Matthews, representative from the Board of Education, was welcomed.

Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent of Mansfield Schools, briefed the committee on the school building project. After four years of research and evaluation, the school building committee will be recommending to the Board of Education the construction of a central elementary school, built behind Southeast Elementary School. The sustainability committee discussed its role with municipal building projects and decided that it can offer sustainable considerations at the conceptual stage of a project by having a committee member serve as a liaison in a building project and possibly facilitating green design charettes. For the school building project now in progress, a communication to the Board of Education and Town Council will be drafted to outline some key sustainability considerations, such as the need for the community to be able to access the site (walkability, proximity to the community) and the sustainable use of the abandoned schools, as well as directing the Board to the Institute for Sustainable Energy as an available resource to assist in creating a high performance school.

The Small Town Carbon Calculator for 2007-2008 municipal data was distributed for review. Stafford offered to clean up the calculator labeling and references. Staff will move to input 2008-2009 data into the calculator in order to begin identifying trends and progress made on energy conservation. The Siemens Building Technologies benchmarking of the four schools using 2006 data was reviewed. Walton will contact Bill Leahy from the Institute of Sustainable Energy about assisting the Town with benchmarking all of the municipal buildings using current data.

Walton distributed flyers for the April 8, 2010 UConn Biofuels Symposium. A few years ago, UConn's Dr. Richard Parnas was interested in expanding his labs' production of biofuel made from fryer oil. The Town expressed interest in purchasing the fuel to heat the Town's facilities. Walton will attend the symposium and report back on the status of biofuel production.

Because of a scheduling conflict, it was recommended that the next meeting be changed to Thursday, April 29, 2010. WINCOG is scheduled be present their regional economic development plan at the April meeting. Hart will present on local economic development. Walton will confirm the new date.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk