

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 29, 2010

Present: Lennon, Stafford, Miller, Hart, Stoddard, Hultgren, Walton, Greg Paddick (visitor), Mark Paquette (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The March 24, 2010 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Mark Paquette, from the Windham Region Council of Government (WINCOG), briefed the committee on the region's economic development plan. The Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership is applying for district designation of 22 towns. By creating a district, the region would be much more likely to receive federal funds for projects. Regionalization is key to any economic development funding. Each of the 22 towns will be asked to participate in a regional council. District status should be known in October.

Discussion turned to local economic development. Hart stated that some key objectives include retaining existing businesses, maintaining and developing local talent, attracting new businesses, and improving the quality of life. The committee suggested focusing on such specific issues as addressing the "blight" in four corners and enlisting Eco house students to offer community service hours to help with clean-up; UConn student interns could help inventory businesses; highlight businesses periodically with small festivals; support development of an agricultural infrastructure. It was suggested that the agriculture committee meet with the sustainability committee.

Hultgren reported that there will be a student intern who will help update the Small Town Carbon Calculator for 2008-2009 municipal data in order to start looking for trends. Christa Koehler, from Clean Air – Cool Planet has offered to help with the Small Town Carbon Calculator. It was suggested that student interns get some training in Rich Miller's Office for Environmental Policy before working with the Town on the calculator.

Walton stated that Richard Parnas, UConn engineer, received a grant to increase production of biodiesel from UConn's waste oil. Dr. Parnas will be invited to an upcoming sustainability committee meeting to discuss the Town's involvement in this initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk