

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
August 25, 2010

Present: Stoddard, Lennon, Matthews, Stafford, Hultgren (staff), Walton (staff), Ed Wazer (visitor), Coleen Spurlock (visitor)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by acting chair, Lynn Stoddard.

The July 28, 2010 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Walton reported that the Mansfield Energy Challenge has concluded with awards to three households. The household with the largest average drop in electrical usage from 2009 to 2010 was 170 kilowatt hours and will receive \$500 in an energy efficiency prizes. Two household tied for the largest percentage drop of 33%. These households will each be awarded \$250 in energy efficiency prizes. Walton stated that the Energy Education Team is interested in creating a sustainable Mansfield interactive map. Stoddard suggested using greenmaps.org which is a global map. On Thursday, August 26, the introductory meeting of the Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge Grant will be held at the Mansfield Library Buchanan Auditorium at 7 pm.

Walton distributed the finalized 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Mansfield municipal energy carbon calculator. It was noted since fuel oil data is based on oil purchases, there are some wide differences between the two years where buildings have large fuel tanks. Subsequent years of data will help even out some of these fluctuations. Ed Wazer suggested including vehicles miles per gallon in the reports. The student intern is currently working on the 2009-2010 carbon calculation.

The committee reviewed the finalized "Sustainability Considerations for School Siting" memo. Staff will ask the Town Manager how this should be presented to Town Council. Stoddard and Matthews offered to introduce the ideas at a council meeting. Hultgren suggested that this information should be published and submitted to a State Department of Education. Matthews will get a State Department of Education contact for Stoddard.

The committee edited a drafted first year Sustainability Committee progress report memo for Town Council. Staff will add a closing statement and edit "Looking Forward" before circulating it to the committee for a final review. The committee hopes to present this to Town Council at their September 27, 2010 meeting. Duffy will be asked if she can help present the committee's progress to the Council.

Applying for the Community Catalyst Fund will be put on hold until after the committee's priorities are further defined.

After revisiting the November 2009 draft short and long term goals, the committee decided that its most important role is to promote, educate and market Mansfield's

sustainable activities. Being responsive to opportunities as they arise, being a demonstration site for new technology and accomplishing one short-term goal that produces an immediate finished product were also important to members. Ed Wazer suggested that as the committee uses Life Cycle Analyses to evaluate new technologies. Hultgren stated that if the Town wishes to be a leading sustainable community, then it will need to hire professional assistance – either a sustainability consultant or professional staff.

Walton stated that the Energy Education Team is interested in making the Global Work Party 10/10/10 a day of rest for clothes dryers. Matthews offered to promote this through the schools. To make “hanging out to dry” visible, a wash line could be strung at the Town Hall where residents can hang up a wet piece of clothing. An identifying tag could name the participating household. The clothing could then be donated to WAIM. This token gesture could be done at the Mansfield Farmer’s Market. Stoddard will register the event. Matthews will outline the idea for further development.

Walton reported that the biodiesel company, Hale Hill Farm, is now selling biodiesel produced exclusively from waste restaurant oil supplied by two new Connecticut facilities. The committee endorsed the idea of the Town purchasing a portion of heating fuel from Hale Hill Farm. Staff will discuss with the Director of Finance.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2010, beginning at **6:30 pm**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk