

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Special Meeting
May 12, 2011

Present: Lennon (vice chair), Matthews, Sherman, Loxsom, Hultgren (staff), Don Hoyle (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

Lennon called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

The minutes from the April 27, 2011 meeting were approved as amended on a motion from Matthews/Sherman.

Walton reported that the Saturday, May 14 Storrs Farmer's Market will feature a display of the Mansfield Hollow hydro project, a functioning homemade photovoltaic system, the Neighbor to Neighbor energy challenge and the CleanEnergyOptions program.

Walton stated that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the additional four kilowatt photovoltaic system on E. O. Smith High School's roof will be Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 2:30 pm.

Walton reported that after viewing a climate showcase communities grant webinar, she concluded that the intermodal center does not offer a large enough climate impact for this type of grant. A variety of regional agencies were the webinar presenters. Matthews offered to seek suitable grant opportunities for the Storrs Center renewable energy projects.

Lennon will begin attending the Four Corners Advisory Committee meetings on a regular basis. The Committee on Committees has not met yet, but it is likely that they will appoint Lennon to the Four Corners Advisory Committee. Hultgren reported that the Willimantic River Alliance hosted a water forum on May 11, 2011 in order to assist regional water planning. At present the Town of Mansfield is coordinating efforts with the University of Connecticut. The Four Corners water consultant is screening two potential water sources – River Park and Eagleville Preserve – that would supply a ½ million gallons of water per day to serve the needs of a redeveloped Four Corners.

Walton invited members to attend the regional launch of the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge on Saturday, May 21 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at the Windham Textile Museum. Sherman offered to send the invitation to EO Smith staff members.

The committee reviewed the energy graphs of the municipal buildings. Suggested changes included using the same scale for all the graphs to make easy comparisons between buildings and breaking out each utility by building to help prioritize actions. The graphs created through portfolio manager (EnergyStar) will adjust for cost per square foot per hours of use. Walton will bring the revised graphs and the portfolio manager graphs to a future meeting. One suggested action is to put motion sensors on outside lights at municipal buildings.

Walton reported that all the committee members are available for the new meeting time of 5 pm on the second Thursday of the month. The committee was interested in having its next meeting at the Kirby Mill. Walton will contact the Shifrins.

Part of a CL&P pilot, Mansfield is one of four Connecticut communities receiving an electric car charging station that will be installed in the north parking lot next to the Town Hall. The charging station, worth \$2,500, has already been received from CL&P. Users of the charging station will not initially be charged for the electricity, but Hultgren stated that this is one of the issues that will need to be addressed during the pilot.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2011 at the Kirby Mill [confirmed]. The meeting was adjourned 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton