

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
July 14, 2011

Present: Stoddard (chair), Stafford, Lennon, Hart, Sherman, Hultgren (staff), Coleen Spurlock (guest), Annie Sung (guest), Sam Shifrin (host), Michelle Shifrin (host), Walton (staff)

Prior to the meeting, the Sustainability Committee took a tour of the Kirby Mill.

Stoddard called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

The minutes from the June 9, 2011 meeting were accepted by Lennon/Sherman.

Stoddard reported that a Municipal Climate Network Workshop was held on June 20, 2011 at Manchester Community College with the purpose of presenting the success of last year's municipal climate action internships. Community colleges are offering certificate programs in green technologies and 10 of the students who interned with municipalities this past year reported on their experience. Their internships were paid through grant funding, which is not available yet for this coming school year. The workshop also offered an overview of climate mitigation and adaptation resources that are available to towns.

Hart reported that after evaluating the bond proposal for the Mansfield Hollow Hydro project, the Director of Finance and he decided that Town bonding for this project is not feasible at this time. Hart stated that the Town Council would be reluctant to bond this project in light of their decision to postpone the bonded school improvements. Instead the Director of Finance and Town Manager are working with the Shifrins on a power purchase agreement with possible tax relief. A term sheet of a power purchase agreement has been drafted and will be reviewed by the Town's attorney. Hart stated that it might be mid-fall before a draft agreement is brought to the Town Council. The Shifrins relayed that a power purchase agreement with the Town will be helpful in getting investors. Investors are still needed in order for the hydro site construction to begin. Sam Shifrin reported that Governor Malloy and Commissioner Esty of the Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection should be coming to visit the Kirby Mill by September. Hart offered to arrange a visit by the Town's State Representative and Senator. Stafford also said she could put the Shifrins in touch with some potential investors. Stoddard suggested a letter of support from the sustainability committee after state officials have visited the hydro site.

Lennon has been appointed to the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee. Hultgren stated that the UConn tech park bonding will include funding for an environmental impact study. The request for proposals will go out in two weeks for an environmental impact evaluation for both UConn and the Town. This is the first time that the Town and UConn have jointly worked on an environmental impact evaluation. Hultgren and Lennon will make sure that climate change is factored into the study. The pump station is in the process of being designed.

Walton reported that the Transition Towns introduction will be held on Tuesday, July 26 at 7 pm in the Mansfield Town Hall Council Chamber. Preceding the program, the Energy Education Team would like to host a potluck with the facilitator at 5:30 pm. Members of the sustainability committee are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned 6:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton