

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 16, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Kristen Schwab, Vera Ward, Paul Shapiro, Meredith Lindsey, Matt Hart, Pat Suprenant (guest), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 by chair Stoddard.

The March 21, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Ward/Schwab with two abstentions. The April 18, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Schwab/Stoddard with three abstentions.

The committee discussed the presentation that Stoddard, Schwab and Lennon (school siting subcommittee) will make on May 17, 2012 during the Town Council's special meeting devoted to siting new elementary schools. The subcommittee will offer a 15 minute powerpoint presentation of the maps and sustainability matrix that the committee has developed and discuss the summarizing conclusions as outlined in the sustainability committee's March 4, 2012 Siting Recommendations Summary, adding that either phasing in construction or using a larger site will reduce land disturbance. They will offer the sustainability committee's input and willingness to participate in a building committee if the project moves forward.

The committee discussed sections D (water efficiency, conservation and management) and E (indoor air quality) of the HUD community challenge grant assessment tool. Some recommendations for Section D include a focus on storm water management, planning for extremes in weather, focusing on the larger watershed, including edible landscapes and landscapes that provide ecosystem value or multi-functional landscapes. In section E, it was suggested to focus more on design that avoids situations which need to be controlled. Painter stated that a modified three tiered assessment tool – beginning with issues related to the larger community, narrowing to site specific issues and finishing with building specific issues - will be brought back to the committee for review during the June meeting.

Kaufman reported that four agricultural ordinances are currently in review. The Right to Farm ordinance and two of the three tax incentive ordinances have been approved by the Ordinance Development and Review Committee and are ready to go to Town Council. Kaufman will e-mail the ordinances to the committee for their review prior to the June 20, 2012 meeting.

Walton reported that almost three year's worth of municipal energy data has been input into the web-based Energy WatchDog calculator and double checked for accuracy. Once the Director of Maintenance peruses the data for anomalies, the information will be brought to the sustainability committee for review.

Kristen and Painter will be serving on the UConn Tech Park committee which begins meeting in June. Two informational workshops are planned for the Town Council on water supply and regulation. The first workshop is scheduled for July 12, 2012.

Future agenda items include the review of HUD grant revised assessment tool, the farm ordinances, the Energy WatchDog data and UConn projects.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton