

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
June 20, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Paul Shapiro, Julia Sherman, Bill Lennon, Rich Miller, Matt Hart, Julia Callahan (guest), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 by chair Stoddard.

The May 16, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Miller & Shapiro with two abstentions.

Kaufman stated that she and Painter are in the process of interviewing consulting teams for the HUD grant who will, as part of their hire, review and rework the assessment tools. They will be given a summary of the sustainability committee's comments. Once selected, the consulting team will be invited to attend a sustainability committee meeting.

Miller gave an update on UConn projects. He reported on the first meeting of UConn's advisory committee to consider alternative sites for the UConn main accumulation area (hazardous waste storage facility). Since the current facility is in the Fenton watershed (a water supply watershed), they are evaluating the existing location compared to potential sites in the Willimantic watershed (northern and western portions of campus). Lennon and Painter are part of the advisory committee. Approval of the federal EIS for North Hillside Road extension, along with state funding to begin development of the UConn Tech Park, have moved the road project much closer to construction. UConn expects to have final environmental permits and DOT design approval by this time next year. Negotiations are underway with the owner of the parcel between the two banks on Rte 44, across from Grand Union, for UConn to acquire a property interest that would enable a new gateway entrance to campus from Route 44. UConn hopes to go out to bid for the road construction next summer. Also, UConn and the town are partners in an EIE to identify an additional source of water supply to meet future development and economic growth needs while maintaining a "margin of safety." The early scoping meeting for an expanded scope of that EIE will be held on June 21, in conjunction with the UConn Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting. The reclaimed water facility is near completion and is on schedule to be constructed and operating by January 2013.

Hart reported forward movement with the Mansfield Hollow Hydro project. With a potential funding source and possible participation in the new Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credits (ZREC) state program, the project may be closer to construction. Paul McCary, the legal counsel working with the Town, is drafting a term sheet for a purchase power agreement. If the agreement is approved by Town Council, 30% to 40% of the municipal buildings' electrical energy will be powered by Mansfield Hollow Hydro.

Hart reported that the Town Council approved a resolution to construct two new elementary schools located on the grounds of Goodwin and Vinton Schools and make

heavy renovations at the Mansfield Middle School. The project is estimated to cost \$36 million dollars (net cost to Mansfield). The Town project was referred to the PZC for review under CGS §8-24, where the proposed resolution failed. Staff hopes to meet again with the PZC to ascertain and address the commission's concerns and questions. The sustainability committee is interested in continuing to be engaged in this project. Hart recommended that a sustainability committee member serve as a liaison to the building committee.

Walton shared two reports from the Energy WatchDog program, stating that the information has been checked for accuracy. Once this fiscal year is complete, three years worth of accurate data will be Energy Star benchmarked. Bill Hammon, Director of Maintenance, will be invited to attend a future meeting when the EnergyStar data is reviewed.

Kaufman reported that four ordinances - farm tax abatements, property tax exemption for farm buildings, property tax exemption for farm machinery and the right to farm - have been reviewed by Town Council. A public hearing for these ordinances is scheduled for July 23, 2012. Sherman will draft comments in favor of enacting each ordinance, which the committee will review at its July meeting.

Walton stated that the Town is applying to participate in a Solarize Connecticut pilot. Four communities will be selected to test an aggregation model designed to bring down the cost of solar PV when residents sign up for a pre-selected installer's offering. The more residents who sign up to install solar, the more the price decreases for everyone who participates. The committee agreed to be a partner in the project, and Stoddard volunteered to serve as a "Solar Ambassador".

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton