

Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved by the Committee. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Office for a copy of final minutes.

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
December 5, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert
Betty DaCruz
Liz Fitzsimmons
Cate Grady-Benson
Katy Perry
Rodger Phillips

Tim Harris, Director of Facilities, Farmington
Schools
Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner
Greg Hall

John Tucker
Catherine
Multiple high school students at the
meeting for their government class

- A. Call to Order – 6:35pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. Presentation from Solect Energy
 - 1) Kent McCord and Matt Shortsleeve from Solect Energy provided a presentation to the group regarding the potential for installing solar panels on the school roofs through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). They provided a detailed evaluation regarding the potential for West District school. They provided the estimated solar array area, energy generation vs energy usage comparison and the potential energy cost savings. The committee asked a variety of questions throughout the presentation including the pros and cons of a PPA vs purchasing and owning the panels, maintenance of the panels and the roofs, and warranty and contract questions.
 - 2) Kent and Matt provided an overview of the ability to install solar panels on the other school roofs and estimated that potential energy cost savings for each location.
 - 3) We briefly discussed next steps which included the timeframe / availability of the Zero-Emission Renewable Energy Credits (ZREC) Program. This program is key to making the installation of solar panels a financially viable option whether they are installed as part of a PPA or if they are owned.
 - 4) The next steps would include roof evaluations and detailed financial evaluations.
- D. Administrative / Communications
 - 1. Meeting Minute approval for:

- a. June 6th M/S/A C. Grady-Benson / K. Perry / all
- b. September 13th M/S/A K. Perry / C. Grady-Benson / all
- c. October 3rd M/S/A B. DaCruz / C. Grady-Benson / all
- 2. Explore Farmington: Shannon confirmed that the site launched in mid-November and suggested that Rose could do a presentation in January on the site and discuss the ability of the Green Efforts Committee to post announcements on the site.
- 3. 2018 Meeting Schedule – schedule was approved as amended M/S/A L. Fitzsimons / K. Perry / all
- 4. Membership: Greg Hall is a new member, there is currently one vacancy

E. Energy Conservation

a. Old Business

- 1. Solar – Katy indicated that Michael Bergin would be happy to speak with us about the process Miss Porter’s went through to install panels on their pool building.
- 2. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – Installation is 97% complete; energy use tracking will commence later this year.
- 3. Street Lighting Project – Shannon provided an update regarding the status of the project. We are currently reviewing agreements with Eversource
- 4. Municipal Car Charging Stations –
 - a. Cate noted that she contacted Tesla to see if they were interested in installing a charger. Tesla indicated to her that they already have a rapid charger at the Red Robin near the mall; and typically do not install more than one charger per market area.
 - b. We discussed the timing of possible redevelopment of the Parson’s parcel and ability to install a charger there for Farmington Center. This is likely a few years out.
 - c. We discussed other possible locations – the Town Hall / Library / FHS campus; Unionville, and the Senior Center.
 - d. We discussed the logistics of how the electricity is paid for, whether to include a requirement in the zoning regulations, and whether to approach businesses about installing them in their lots.

b. New Business

None

F. Waste Reduction

a. Old Business

- i. Curbside Textile Recycling – Shannon noted that she met with Kristen Brown, the local consultant for Simple Recycling, today. The Simple Recycling program has launched in New Britain, West Hartford, and Bristol. Further progress on this is anticipated in 2018.
- ii. 2018 Annual Clean-Up Day
 - 1. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day has been confirmed for April 21, 2018. The Annual Clean-Up Day will take place the same day.
 - 2. Shannon confirmed that there is budget available to the Committee in both the Green Efforts account and the Clean-Up Day account. These

funds are available for the purchase of additional garbage bags, t-shirts for volunteers, etc

3. Cate discussed changing the format of the business portion of the Heaviest Haul competition and allowing businesses to participate for the entire month.
 4. Cate indicated that she would draft a proposal for this revision for the businesses and will discuss with the Scott Zenke the ability of Highway and Grounds to do pick-ups in the weeks leading up to Clean-up day. The agreement with Scott should be documented in writing.
 5. Katy noted that she had some interest from a local corporation on being a sponsor for t-shirts.
- iii. DEEP Dive – SMART waste reduction – no update
- b. New Business
- i. Take out Containers
 - a. Betty noted an interest in working with the local restaurants to educate them about alternative take-out containers that are recyclable. She noted that a number of local businesses use black container which are not recyclable.
 - b. Betty's initial thought was to do some preliminary research on options and costs and present that information to the businesses either in person or via mail to educate them about better options.
 - iii RecycleCT.com
 - a. Katy noted that there is a new DEEP website that helps identify what can be recycled and what cannot.
 - b. Shannon noted that the link is on the Farmington main page, under "In the Spotlight" and also on the Highway and Grounds page.
 - c. Katy noted that there are items elsewhere on the Highway and Grounds page that should be updated to match the new info. on RecycleCT.com. This will be reviewed and corrected.

G. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

- a. Old Business
 - i. CT Water Planting Area Update: Katy and Shannon worked on weeding efforts throughout the fall. The site is currently dormant until the Spring.
- b. New Business

H. Other Items

- 1) Cate indicated that she had been approached by someone wanting to know if the Committee would comment on the proposed subdivision on Old Mountain Rd with respect to the Scenic Road Designation. Shannon noted that the subdivision is zoning compliant resulting in lots that are at least 80,000 sf, and that a 50 ft Conservation Easement has been required along the frontage of the property to preserve the scenic aspect of the roadway. Openings within the easement are provided only for the proposed and existing driveways and the required site distance angles for the driveways. The plans are available for review in the Development Office and you are encouraged to review the plans at your convenience.

- 2) Catherine noted a concern with the Boy Scouts Food Drive and the distribution of the plastic bags to each home. She felt a number of the plastic bags blew away or are dropped and blow into the woods, wetlands and waterways. A number of the members agreed with the concern. Some noted that perhaps the Boy Scouts could do their food drive similar to the Post Office and simply leave a flyer without the bag.

Adjourn 9:20 pm

cc: Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fagan, Board of Education
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant
Rose Ponte, Director of Economic Development
Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works
Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager