

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 6, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert, Chairman
Betty DaCruz
Liz Fitzsimmons
Cate Grady-Benson
Katy Perry

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

Guests:

Steve Silk
3 Farmington High School Students

- A. Call to Order – The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. Administrative / Communications
 - 1. The June 7, 2016, September 20, 2016, October 4, 2016 and November 1, 2016 meeting minutes were approved. (Perry / Grady-Benson) (M/S/A)
 - 2. Semi-annual Newsletter:
 - a. Shannon indicated Rose plans to have a draft newsletter for review in January.
 - b. Betty shared an article on Mattress Recycling from the November Hartford Business Journal.
 - 4. Calendar: The 2017 calendar was approved as amended. (Perry/Fitzsimmons) (M/S/A)
 - 5. The updated Rules of Procedure were discussed. All changes were approved as suggested except the total voting membership will remain at 8. (Grady-Benson/Perry) (M/S/A)
 - 6. The two inactive members have been relieved of their membership commitment. These positions can now be filled by interested community members.
 - 7. Shannon reviewed the Green Circle Sustainability Award parameters with the Committee. The application is not yet available for 2016. Shannon will continue to monitor the CT DEEP website for the application and will update the Committee accordingly.
- D. Energy Conservation
 - a. Old Business
 - 1. Solar – Municipal Buildings and Land
John provided an update to the Committee regarding a meeting that John, Shannon, Erica and Tim had with Erik Bartone and Roger LaFleur on the afternoon of November 30th. Roger currently works

with Tim on energy efficiency projects for the schools. Roger agreed to meet with us and to explain the pros and cons of the solar installation and ownership vs. power purchase agreements. Roger had Erik join the meeting as Erik has coordinated a number of installs.

The discussion evolved to include the High School Building Committee and questions about the level of environmentally friendly and conscientious elements being included in the design. There was a brief discussion on the Building Committee process and the opportunities for public involvement. Those interested were encouraged to participate in the public comment opportunities.

2. Community Pledge – working on redeeming the next Bright Ideas Grant. The Clean Energy Communities Program is coming to close. As part of the close out, Farmington received their reward check for the renewable energy credits. These funds will be used for the Municipal Lighting Project.
3. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – Final plans should be ready at the end of December. The Town anticipates going out to bid in January.
4. Municipal Car Charging Stations
No update for this month. Rose is continuing to contact Eversource.

- ii. New Business
None

E. Waste Reduction

- a. Old Business
 - i. Adopt a Roadway – no update
 - ii. Curbside Textile Recycling – no update
- b. New Business
 - i. 2017 Annual Clean Up Day – West Woods has already contacted Cate and would like to have a group of students work on areas adjacent to the river the week prior to Clean-up Day.
 - ii. Compost Bins 2017 – Betty forwarded a price quote to Shannon. This will be discussed further in January.

F. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

- a. Old Business
 - i. CT Water Planting Area Update
This will be dormant until Spring 2017. Steve Silk noted that there may be more success with cutting the knotweed back rather than pulling it out.
- b. New Business
None

G. Water Conservation

- a. Cate indicated that the Committee should consider posting water conservation practices on the Green Efforts Facebook page and the Town website. All concurred. Cate to take the lead with preparing a 1 page Fact Sheet.

Adjourn 8pm (Grady-Benson / DaCruz) (M/S/A)

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