

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
February 6, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

Patti Boye-Williams
Andrea Sobinski
Betty DaCruz
Cate Grady-Benson
Greg Hall
Katy Perry
Rodger Phillips
John Tucker

Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager
Tim Harris, Director of Facilities, Farmington
Schools
Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

- A. Call to Order – 6:34pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. Administrative / Communications
 - 1. Meeting Minute approval for:
 - a. December 5, 2017 M/S/A – motion to approve: J.Tucker, second: Greg Hall, vote: abstain – A. Sobinski, all others approve
 - 2. Explore Farmington: Shannon confirmed that the site launched in mid-November and that there were a number of successful postings throughout the holiday season. Rose is eager to add a Green Efforts blog to the site and suggested that whoever from the group is interested to contact her directly to coordinate. Cate agreed to coordinate with Rose. Katy suggested that each member of the Committee write one blog a year. This would allow the Committee to post an article every 6 months.

I followed up with Rose and she indicated that approximately 200 people visit the site each week. There is also a Facebook page for the site.
- D. Energy Conservation
 - a. Old Business
 - 1. Solar – Shannon to send Solect Energy’s presentation from December to the Committee members. Tim noted that if there is a decision to look further into solar for the school buildings it would be through an RFQ. We discussed that the West District School was one of the more favorable locations.
 - 2. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – Installation is complete; energy use tracking will commence in 2018; Incentive received from Eversource. Project closeout is all that is left. This item will be removed from the agenda.

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 provided a summary of her current efforts to date, including dialogue with Tesla. Tesla is not interested in installing additional charging stations in Farmington; they currently have multiple stations installed near the mall.
 - 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.
 - e. Action Item: Contact other municipalities and determine the annual cost they pay for the electric for the charging stations and what was the installation cost for the unit.

b. New Business

1. Energy Efficiency and Performance Contracting. Patti shared information from a presentation she had seen by the ECG Group. The ECG Group provides energy consulting services for municipalities and corporations interested in Energy Performance Contracts. Patti suggested that we keep this in mind as the Friar Architects report is reviewed in case there is the ability to tie school improvements to energy efficiency upgrades.

Erica explained the previous Energy Performance Contract that the Town engaged in, in 2010. The Town previously worked with Ameresco. Ameresco conducted an Investment Grade Audit of all of the schools and multiple town-owned buildings. A scope of work was agreed to and implemented. Over \$3 million dollars in energy efficiency improvements were completed. This is paid for over time through the energy savings realized from the improvements. Additionally, this work resulted in the Town receiving over \$700,000.00 in incentives from Eversource.

Katy asked what the typical lifecycle was of an Investment Grade Audit / ESCO project. Patti indicated that she would contact ECG to get their thoughts.

E. Waste Reduction

a. Old Business

1. Curbside Textile Recycling – Shannon provided a summary of the Simple Recycling program. The Simple Recycling program has launched in New Britain, West Hartford, and Bristol. East Hartford is expected to start soon. Shannon noted that the Town Manager is receptive to implementing Simple Recycling and has asked for endorsements from the Green Efforts Committee and Conservation Commission prior to bringing this forward to Town Council.

Shannon will forward the link for the Simple Recycling website to the Committee; and to obtain a sample bag for the next meeting.

Katy Perry made a motion for the Green Efforts Committee to endorse the Simple Recycling Program; second by Betty DaCruz; all voted in favor.

Patti indicated that she would be interested in having Kristen Brown from Waste Zero come and speak with the Committee. Kristen is a consultant to DEEP and is assisting in the promotion of the Simple Recycling program and the SMART waste reduction program.

2. 2018 Annual Clean-Up Day
 - a. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day has been confirmed for April 21, 2018. The Annual Clean-Up Day will take place the same day.
 - b. Katy shared the flyer that she developed for the business participants for Clean-Up Day. Business participants will be permitted to clean-up during the entire month of April and qualify for the heaviest haul competition. The only suggested improvement to the flyer was to standardize the font type used on the flyer. Cate will work with Rose to have this promoted with her EDC business contact list and Explore Farmington.
 - c. Shannon noted that there is a budget to support the Committee and there are funds available for the purchase of gloves, t-shirts, garbage bags, etc.
 3. DEEP Dive – SMART waste reduction
 - a. Shannon provided an overview of the SMART waste reduction program for the Committee. The basis of the program is changing the waste removal fee from a flat fee to a pay-as-you-throw fee. This makes waste removal function more like a utility, in that you pay for what you use. The DEEP Dive program is sponsored by CT DEEP and is implemented through their consultant Kristen Brown. Farmington has completed Phase 1 of the DEEP Dive review.
 - b. Shannon will coordinate with Kristen and Patti to look into dates when Kristen could speak with the Committee.
 - b. New Business - None
- F. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction
- a. Old Business
 - i. CT Water Planting Area Update: CT Water and FRWA are again able to provide financial support for this project. Each organization will contribute \$1,000.00 for planting material. Farmington will also contribute \$1,000.00 toward the planting material. In addition, Farmington is responsible for prepping the planting area in the spring and providing mulch on the day of planting. Typically planting takes place the first or second week of May. This will be the third year of planting improvements for this area.

b. New Business - None

G. Other Items

- 1) Sustainable CT Program - Katy briefly discussed the program with the group. Shannon will share the link with the Committee. Sustainable CT is a Certification program for municipalities to benchmark their community's sustainable efforts.

Adjourn 8:30 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