

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Chairperson Quint David, John Prickett, Benjamin Scarboro, Nicholas Stover, Sam Furguele and Marshall Ashcraft

Staff Members Present: Christy Turner, Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

Call to Order

Chairperson David called to order the meeting of the Boone Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee, held in the Planning and Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 W. King Street at 5:36 p.m.

Member Furguele announced that he has made an action request on the next Council agenda to add another position to the Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee. He said that Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers had mentioned that there were other people in the Town but not on the committee that have the expertise to support the SEEC with their goals. This is why he suggested expanding the committee to give them an opportunity to serve on it, if they wanted to.

Chairperson David welcomed Member Nicholas Stover back to the committee. Member Stover had previously been on the Sustainability Task Force.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Prickett made a motion, seconded by Member Stover to accept the agenda as amended with the adding of the topic of Solar Panel Rebate Program under Other Matters.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion ensued on Council Members possibly not being on the Town boards and committees. Member Furguele said that he felt that having the Council Members on the boards and committees is a recipe for undue influence. He said that the Council Members did discuss this topic at the February 8, 2018 Budget Hearing. He said he felt it was better for the boards and committees to conduct their meetings without Council. He said this topic will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Member Furguele made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to approve the January 11, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion on Bee City, USA

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner began discussion on Bee City, USA. She handed out a one-page document entitled: Bee City, USA, Pollinator Friendly Habitat (permanently attached). She said that previously the Council had given approval for the Town of Boone to apply to be a part of the Bee City, USA.

Ms. Turner handed out a copy of the action request that contained the list of eight items that need to be completed before the Town can apply to be a part of the Bee City USA (permanently attached). She said it is in the charge that the Bee City has to be attached to a committee which will be the Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee with a committee liaison.

Ms. Turner said there needs to be discussion on the third week of June being used for the educational events. She said that the month of June is when this event usually occurs. Member Furguele noted that it would be better to have the event, when the University is in session.

Ms. Turner explained that once the Town becomes a Bee City, USA, the signs will be made and installed in the Town.

Ms. Turner said you have to develop and implement a program to create and expand a pollinator friendly habitat. And you have to create a list of Town properties that can be enhanced with pollinator friendly habitats. She said these properties can be identified through the GIS system.

Ms. Turner said we have already identified the native species that the bees prefer. Ms. Turner said there is a native species list that she will bring to the next SEEC meeting.

Chairperson David said that once the Town becomes a Bee City, USA, it will be good to let the neighborhoods know that they can help with it.

It was noted that the bee colonies in our area are doing better than they are doing nationally. It was noted that the bees have been contained better and without collapse in the County than the Town which is encouraging.

Discussion ensued on the use of pesticides. It was noted that there is *not* a lot of pesticides that negatively affects the bees being sprayed in this area other than for the Christmas tree pesticides.

Member Prickett talked about a study that looked at bee hive collapse. He said it is because the bees leave or the hive just dies. He said the terminology for this topic is being reevaluated.

Chairperson David said you can have five bee hives without a required permit. It was noted that it is required to have a bait hive and swam protection. Ms. Turner said she would review the bee hive Unified Development Ordinance requirements at the next SEEC meeting.

Member Furgiuele said that he has been working on a resolution to present to Council in March of 2018. He said the resolution is regarding urging North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper to lean on DENR and other departments of the State to start evaluating the restrictions of certain pesticides that are bad for bees.

Discussion of the Energy Action Plan

Chairperson David began discussion on the Energy Action Plan by stating that the Council approved the SEEC to work on their 2017 long-term goals and to try to help the Town by putting together a proposal for the Town to include 100 percent renewable sources for the Town of Boone by 2050.

Member Furgiuele suggested for the SEEC to create a list of specific action steps to submit to Council for budget purposes.

Discussion ensued on changing the types of vehicles used in the Police Department. Member Furgiuele noted that he doesn't see where the Town of Boone needs a necessarily high-powered vehicle for the six-square miles of their jurisdiction that they travel. He said in Europe they use the smaller compact vehicles and they work well for them. Chairperson David said the City of Asheville has a Chevrolet Volt electric car in their vehicle fleet. It was noted that electric vehicles do not usually have as much space in the back seats which is helpful, when the Police are hauling prisoners to various locations.

Member Furgiuele said that he submitted an action request to Council regarding a public forum to be held in the beginning of May where the Police Department and other members of the public would be able to answer questions on vehicles used by the Town Departments. It was noted that the Town needs different sized vehicles for various reasons.

Member Marshall noted that the Planning and Inspection Department needed a SUV or four-wheel drive vehicle to help them get to inspection sites.

It was suggested to incorporate in the recommendation to Council any information on Town vehicles that has been found through the SEEC's research.

Discussion ensued on SEEC Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers submitting an action request to Council for their February 2018 meeting agenda. Member Furgiuele said he felt it is not clear that Vice-Chairperson Ayers and SEEC are talking about the same topic. It was the consensus of the SEEC for Chairperson David to attend the Council meeting to see if Vice-President Harvard is presenting to Council on behalf of the SEEC or on another topic aside from the SEEC. Chairperson David noted that he has not reviewed the information that Vice-President Ayers is presenting to Council at their February 2018 meeting. Member Furgiuele noted that if there are competing proposals being presented to Council, the Council needs to know what the proposals are for.

Member Ashcraft noted that Vice-Chairperson Ayers knew that the Council was having budget hearings and Vice-Chairperson Ayers wanted to present information to Council during this time for their consideration. Chairperson David said he would try to speak to Vice-Chairperson Ayers to make sure they are both working on the same goals. Vice-Chairperson David said he would try to get an item on the February 2018 Council agenda to explain to Council what the SEEC has been working on; and let Vice-Chairperson Ayers explain what he has been working on. It was the consensus of the SEEC that this would be helpful to eliminate any confusion for the Council.

Discussion ensued on the possible transition to NTE as a renewable energy supplier. Member Ashcraft said this will create a larger supply of renewable energy and the Town of Boone could buy power from them. Member Furgiuele said the SEEC could make a proposal to Council at their March 2018 meeting to adopt the policy that some of the Town's electricity come from NTE, when it becomes available. He said it is a part of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan that the SEEC can come forward with policy initiatives.

Member Furgiuele noted that the SEEC can endorse different types of proposals and then work on how they want to achieve them as they go.

Member Prickett talked about installation of solar panels at the County landfill which was previously discussed by the SEEC. He said he will pursue talking with Mr. Deron Geouque the County Manager to discuss the possible use of solar panels at the County landfill.

Chairperson David talked about creating a list of specific action steps for the energy action plan. He said he would put a list of steps together to review at the next meeting. He asked the SEEC to email him any ideas they have for the list. He talked about incorporating the energy action plan with Earth Day. Chairperson David said he would email out the list of action steps to the SEEC for their review.

Discussion ensued on battery usage. Chairperson David said the Town of Boone uses lead batteries to help protect the environment. He talked about Applacart being able to find electric buses to purchase. He said they cost around \$450,000 each and they have battery issues. He said hopefully as the technologies improve the pricing for the buses will come down.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Member Furgiuele said he has placed on the February 2018 Council agenda a proposal for a 30 percent solar panel rebate with a cap. It was noted that \$5,000 or \$6,000 would be the minimum outlay with a \$25,000 total allocation for the Town for the rebate. He said if you could anticipate ten to twelve rebates, it would be worth the time spent on it. He said that if Council approves this proposal, it would come back to the SEEC for discussion.

Chairperson David noted that the SEEC is working on the Carbon Emissions Report for one of the goals of the SEEC.

Chairperson David noted that he is working with the Food Council and they are working on a strategic policy to become a non-profit.

Adjournment

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Stover to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

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POLLINATOR FRIENDLY HABITAT

Each of us
can play a part

It starts with each of us, working together to reverse the decline in pollinator pollinations by converting our yards, parks, roadsides and campuses to healthy habitat.

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Bee City USA affiliates strive to:



Provide diverse and abundant pollinator food sources (nectar and pollen from blooming plants) that bloom in succession from spring to fall.



Provide water for drinking, nest-building and cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly "puddling."



Build your habitat with mostly, if not all, native species of grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees.
**Many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved for millions of years.*



Provide undisturbed spaces (leaf piles, unmowed fields, fallen trees) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators.



Use pesticide-free materials and source plants from nurseries that do not treat seeds with neonicotinoid pesticides, which permeate the entire plant and remain active for as much as years in woody plants.

**Not all retailers reveal pesticide treatments on plant labels; sometimes a plant may be labeled "bee-friendly" even though it was treated with a neonicotinoid- (systemic) pesticide*



Provide for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.



Raise pollinator awareness by designating pollinator zones in public spaces with explanatory signage.

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TOWN OF BOONE

AGENDA ITEM ACTION REQUEST FORM

This form must be completed and attached to all supporting documentation for items to be included in the Town of Boone Council agenda. One (1) form per agenda item.

Submitted By: Christy Turner **Department:** Planning and Inspections

Contact Phone #: 268-6960 **Date Submitted:** February 2, 2018

Email: christy.turner@townofboone.net

Date of Council Meeting to consider this item: February 15, 2018

Council Action Requested: **For Action** **X** **For Information**

Staff is asking Council's permission to expend staff time, contact appropriate individuals and expend resources necessary to address the following information in order for Boone to become a Bee City USA.

Summary of Information:

At the September 28, 2017 Town Council Meeting, by unanimous vote, Town Council directed staff to expend time and resources for the Town of Boone to become a Bee City USA affiliate.

Staff has researched this item and the followings items will need to be addressed before the Town of Boone can become a Bee City USA affiliate:

1. Decide which town committee Bee City USA will be assigned to (suggest Sustainability).
2. Decide when the Town would choose to celebrate Bee City USA with educational events (usually the 3rd week of June).
3. Decide how many Bee City USA street signs the Town would like to display and where. (Sign cost is approximately \$50)
4. A webpage must be created to maintain a copy of the Bee City USA resolution, links to the national Bee City USA website, contact information for the town's liaison/assigned committee and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities accomplished in the previous time period.
5. Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat(s). (See attached for information).
6. Establish through policy and the Town's Comprehensive Plan acknowledgement/commitment to the Bee City USA designation.
7. Assess relevant plan/documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings and other appropriate measures.
8. Submit initial application this year and renew the Bee City USA each January with the appropriate application fee which is currently \$200.

9. Pass a Bee City USA resolution.

10. Identification and inventory of Town real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.