

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, Quint David, Bailey Winecoff, Grace Cochran and Chris Gentry
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Charlotte Mizelle
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	Christy Turner, Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby Committee Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Ayers called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Member Cochran made a motion, seconded by Member David to amend the agenda to add speaker, Ms. Marsha Story from the Town of Boone Public Works Department to speak on recycling at this meeting.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Winecoff made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mizelle to approve the January 12, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

SCHEDULING FUTURE SPEAKERS

It was noted that this agenda item was tabled from the last meeting.

Council Member Mizelle asked if it was necessary to have someone come to the meeting to talk about getting the Sustainability information on the Town website. Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner noted that there Staff available at the Fire Department who can work with the committee on getting the information on the Town website.

Council Member Mizelle suggested adding to the website some of the accomplishments and goals of the Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee.

Ms. Turner asked the committee members if they had the website information available that they wanted put on the website. Member David, Member Winecoff and Council Member Mizelle talked about working together to decide on what should go on the website and getting that information to the Fire Department. Ms. Turner asked the committee members to provide Staff with a copy of the rough draft of the website information.

Motion and Vote:

Member David made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Ayers to allow Member David, Member Winecoff and Council Member Mizelle to work together to decide on the Sustainability information to be placed on the Town website.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion ensued on other guest speakers to invite to future committee meetings to talk about the various Tenets of Sustainability.

The committee members reviewed the tenants of Sustainability list to see which speakers they would like to invite to future meetings. It was decided to ask Mr. Shay Tuberty from the university to give an environmental update on how the new water intake project can potentially affect the fish, etc.

Council Member Mizelle suggested asking Mr. John Ward, Town Manager to come to a future meeting to give an update on the smart water meters. Council Member Mizelle explained that with the smart water meters the homeowner will receive an email to alert them, when their water usage increases. This gives the homeowner an opportunity to check their property to help prevent water loss.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said he would like an update from Mr. Ward regarding the preliminary plans as it relates to alternative energy for the Town of Boone property known formerly as the Bolick Farm.

PRESENTATION ON RECYCLING

Ms. Marsha Story from the Town of Boone, Public Works Department gave a brief review of the recycling program that has been in place since 1998. She noted that the recycling program has increased in collections since 1998. She said the most important things about recycling are outreach and education. She explained that every October the Town of Boone mails with the water bills the Town of Boone's Recycling Guide. She noted the October mailing is sent to residences, businesses and it is the first bill received by the new university students. She handed out to each committee member the Town of Boone Recycling Guide, Residential Recycling Program,

Commercial Recycling Program, Earth Week and Monthly Events, Fun in the Park Day, Recycling Program-Reusable Bag Campaign and Current Recycling Collection Statistics (permanently attached).

Ms. Story said she is currently trying to get the landlords onboard with the Town's recycling goals. She noted that she has about 48 percent of the apartment complexes onboard with these goals. She said there is a minimal cost to the landlords for recycling but the Town subsidizes it. She said it costs the landlord \$2.50 a month per roll-out. She said this cost includes a once a month pick-up.

Ms. Story talked about single-stream recycling and noted that plastic bags and Styrofoam are not included in single-stream recycling. She noted there is not a market in North Carolina to recycle Styrofoam.

Ms. Story said in 2011 there was a change made to the Unified Development Ordinance to require that all new apartment complexes to create a space for recycling bins as well as dumpsters.

Ms. Story talked about the Town of Boone roll out containers making it more convenient for multi-family complexes to participate in recycling.

The committee members asked Ms. Story what they could do to help with the recycling program. Ms. Story said she would get back to the committee members with suggestions on this topic.

Council Member Mizelle talked about discussing possibly adding recycling information into the UDO. She said she would bring this topic up at the next Council budget meeting.

BUDGET UPDATE ON RECOMMENDED ITEMS FROM LAST MONTH

Member David said at this time the committee does not have an assigned budget. He suggested that the committee members discuss and propose dollar amounts for the 2017 short-term and long-term goals. The committee made the following suggestions on these goals (see permanently attached).

- Transportation - \$2, 000 for the bike maintenance station
- Energy - \$30,000 for a solar station on Howard Street similar to the solar charging station located on Depot Street, look into wind turbines on Howard Street and the new Town acquired property formerly the Bolick Farm.
- Water – these dollar amounts are already in the budget or UDO changes
- Food – calculate composting costs with the ASU and Watauga County (Farmers Market already in the works)
- Education – minimal dollar amount for Sustainability forum with help from Committee Member Bailey Winecoff
- Environment - \$20,000 for beautification and trees for the Greenway that the committee can begin right away

It was the consensus of the committee members to suggest having a Stakeholder meeting in a Lunch and Learn format which the Town already pays for. It was also noted that the press generally attends these type meetings.

It was also suggested that the committee invite Mr. David Graham, Transportation Planner from the High Country Council of Governments to speak on the Tenent of Transportation.

Discussion ensued on the afternoon traffic issues at the Hardin Park Elementary school. Council Member Mizelle said that sidewalks are being discussed at this location. It was noted that some parents park at the Boone United Methodist Church and walk over to the school to pick up their children after school.

Council Member Mizelle talked about making it a requirement to have an electric charging station in the new proposed Downtown parking garage. It was the consensus of the committee members for Council Member Mizelle to contact Ms. Jan Winkler about adding the charging station in the parking garage.

Discussion ensued on windmills. Vice-Chairperson Ayers said that the wind produced in the night time will create the most energy. Member Gentry said he would research information on windmills for the next meeting. Council Member Mizelle noted that ten years ago the pay back on windmills was 15 years. She said that now the pay back on windmills is probably fewer years.

Discussion ensued on the different classes of windmills. Member David said there are websites that explain how the different classes of windmills are determined.

Council Member Mizelle said the Police Department has been approached regarding the use of electric fleet vehicles replacing the non-electric fleet vehicles.

Discussion ensued on possibly consulting with an outside agency. It was the consensus of the committee that they could work on the items of Sustainability that have been discussed.

Discussion ensued on the PACE program. Member David explained that in this program the property taxes pay for improvements like solar, heat pumps and insulation.

Discussion ensued on a proposed UDO change for 30 percent of new parking to be permeable and the review of storm water and runoff quality requirements. Ms. Turner explained that the Town Attorney would write proposed changes to the UDO. She confirmed that the Staff handles the storm water requirements.

Discussion ensued on curbside composting. Member David explained that there is a new waste pickup being made available through a phone application. Council Member Mizelle reminded the committee members about taking a future tour of the ASU composting facility in the spring.

Discussion ensued on locations of the Farmers Market. Council Member Mizelle said that the hope is to have an improved summer's Farmers Market at its current location. Member David said there has been discussions on a mid-week Farmers Market but there has been no decisions made on it at this time.

Discussion ensued on providing more education on the Tenets of Sustainability. Member David talked about holding a community workshop around the Earth Day event.

Discussion ensued on including the bike program with the “Watch for Me” program. Ms. Turner said she would check with Staff on coordinating this topic.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers asked about the budget amount for Town trees. He said that the Climate Voices are willing to contribute \$3,000.00. Council Member Mizelle said that the committee needs to decide where they would like to see the trees. Council Member Mizelle suggested proposing an amount of \$10,000.00 for trees. Member David suggested the amount of \$20,000.00 for tree beautification. Council Member Mizelle said she would discuss this topic with Mr. Ward.

COMMITTEE CHARGE ON PUBLIC FOCUS GROUPS AND SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

Member David reviewed the two recommended actions for Council’s consideration found on Boone 2017 Sustainability, Economics, and Environment Committee Recommendations (permanently attached.)

OTHER MATTERS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR STAFF

Set agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson Ayers made a motion, seconded by Member David to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Harvard Ayers, Vice-Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary