

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, John Prickett, Benjamin Scarboro, Nicholas Stover, Christian Gentry, Lee Ball and Marshall Ashcraft

Staff Members Present: Christy Turner, Senior Planner and Brenda Henson, 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 5:29 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Ball made a motion, seconded by Member Stover to accept the agenda as amended by adding the Sustainability Event Update before the Bee City, USA update.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Prickett made a motion, seconded by Member Ball to accept the March 8, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Sustainability Event Update

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner explained that she had talked to Ms. Pilar Fotta, Director of Cultural Resources regarding the dates of this event. Ms. Turner and Ms. Fotta suggested having this event with Appalachian State University and Watauga County on Friday, September 7, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Jones House. Ms. Turner said the SEEC had previously discussed including an educational session for Bee City USA at the Sustainability event. Ms. Turner further explained that there are two knowledgeable professors at Appalachian State University that could contribute

to the educational session. It was noted that they can bring a live bee hive that can be shown at the event.

Discussion ensued on creating an action request for Council's approval to have the Sustainability event on September 7, 2018. Member Ball asked Ms. Turner to let her know, when this event is approved by Council and he will let the University Staff know to begin preparation for this event. Member Scarboro summarized the reason for the action request which is to ask Council to approve the September 7, 2018 date for the event that will include the promoting of Sustainability and Bee City USA information that will raise pollinator awareness.

Member Gentry made a motion, seconded by Member Stover to send an action request to Council for approval to have the Sustainability Event on September 7, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Jones House. The event will include the promoting of Sustainability and Bee City, USA information that will include pollinator awareness.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

It was noted that Ms. Turner will create the action request to Council for the motion listed above.

Bee City USA Update

Ms. Turner informed the committee members that the Council approved the action request item for the Staff time to prepare the Bee City, USA application and to work on the Resolution to be approved by Council. Ms. Turner said after the Town Attorney reviews the Resolution, she would bring it to the SEEC for their review. Chairperson David said you can review an example of the Resolution on the Bee City, USA website.

Chairperson David said that he had spoken to Mr. John Ward, Boone Town Manager regarding the other Earth Day events that are coming up this month. Chairperson David explained that on April 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2018 there will be litter sweeps done by Volunteers, April 18, 2018 there will be a special Pedestrian Bicycle Plan meeting and on April 17, 18 and 19, 2018 there will be a workshop for the Appalcart Comprehensive Plan update. He said a consultant will come in to help them plan the new routes for next year. He said the consultant will help them better utilize their current resources. He also said the consultant will be meeting with stakeholders.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers asked Chairperson David when will the first electric bus be ordered for Appalcart. Chairperson David said as soon as they can receive \$2 Million Dollars.

Chairperson David noted that an Appalcart planning meeting will be occurring around April 17 and 18, 2018.

Discussion on Green Infrastructure Plan

Chairperson David suggested tabling this agenda item for this meeting. It was the consensus of the SEEC to table this agenda item at this meeting. It was noted that a whole meeting needs to be dedicated to the discussion of this topic. Chairperson David noted that the SEEC would need to discuss a planning process for Green Infrastructure which may take the rest of 2018.

Chairperson David said on April 18, 2018 there is a Bike and Pedestrian Plan meeting. It was noted that there will be a cycling event at 10 am on April 18, 2018 in the Town of Boone.

Review on NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan

Vice-Chairperson Ayers talked about the Boone Clean Energy Project (permanently attached). He talked about Town of Boone energy usage which included electricity and gasoline and diesel fuel. He said the Town's usage is around seven to eight megawatts.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers explained that there was a budget proposal for \$230,000. He said at the Council meeting on March 19, 2018, the Council approved \$230,000.00 based upon available funds in the Town's budget for the Boone Clean Energy Project. He said a part of the \$230,000.00 would purchase \$100,000.00 for the hardware and \$10,000.00 would be used to purchase a Chevrolet Bolt vehicle.

Discussion ensued on the location of the hardware. Vice-Chairperson Ayers said that would be determined at a later date. Or when they find out how much solar, they are going to be able to do. He said that roof space is usually the lowest in cost for solar panels because the structures you are placing the panels on are usually paid for.

Member Ball asked Vice-Chairperson Ayers if a survey has been done yet to see how many flat and sloped roofs are in the Town of Boone which would include roof materials and warranties. Member Ball noted that the best time to add solar panels and UV is when a roof is being replaced.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers talked about adding solar panels on new buildings or adding field solar where available. Member Scarboro suggested putting up one solar roof on one of the Town buildings to get started with installing solar in the Town.

Discussion ensued on future solar purchases to help reduce carbon and move towards the goal of 100% Renewable Energy. Chairperson David said at some point due to the large costs needed up front for solar, the Town might need to use a bond or look for donations for solar.

Discussion ensued on private-public leases for art-type roofs or pads. Chairperson David said that approximately \$20,000.00 could pay for 20 separate art-type roof or pads. It was noted that this would increase solar awareness in the Town as the community sees the art-type roofs or pads being installed.

Discussion ensued on identifying locations for the private-public art-type roofs or pads around Town. It was decided to have future discussions on this topic. Ms. Turner suggested talking with the Town of Boone Public Works Department to ask about the roof replacements in the Town buildings.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers suggested that the SEEC support the NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan. Chairperson David said he wants to support this action plan and start adding solar where ever we can.

It was noted that a building permit would need to be applied for that would include licensed contractors for the solar installations.

Member Gentry said he supports this action plan with the caveat that the Town does the roof replacement surveys.

Member Gentry suggested the SEEC identify four or five locations for possible solar projects in the Town that are similar to the Depot Street solar project. Ms. Turner suggested having the Town of Boone GIS person create a map that excludes the flood areas and includes the green spaces to help identify areas to place solar projects. It was noted that we need to look at the trees at each possible location to make sure the tree canopy is clear enough for a solar project. It was noted that 100 kilowatts do not require much space for a solar installation.

Chairperson David talked about the \$148,000.00 dollars for street lights coming out of the Town of Boone General Fund and the \$168,000.00 dollars for water coming out of the Town of Boone Water and Sewer budget. It was noted that both of these funds need solar energy to help reduce these expenditures.

Discussion ensued on conservation. Member Scarboro asked if there was a study that would disclose what we would actually net by improving our conservation. Member Ball said there can be a life-cycle analysis on energy efficiency upgrade and it could begin with a lighting LED retrofit. Member Scarboro asked how much it would cost for this type of analysis. Member Scarboro said he thought it would be helpful to know how much conservation we can improve on and do con-currently.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers recused himself from this motion and vote.

Motion and Vote:

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Gentry to recommend that the Town adopt the NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan specifically looking at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, parks and rooftops and other highly visible and appropriate locations for solar installations.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

It was noted that Vice-Chairperson Ayers left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Discussion on Energy Action Plan

Chairperson David said the SEEC needs to work on getting the Town's green-house gas inventory together. He said he would like to model the Town of Boone after the Boulder, Colorado model for this topic. He said this process begins with looking at the Town's utility expenses. He said this information comes in the form of dollars and not gallons. He explained that he divided the \$240,000.00 by \$2.25 to get the kilowatts that was spent on gasoline and diesel. He said the units are approximately 109,000 gallons. He said the result is the Town of Boone used approximately 4 megawatts of the gasoline and diesel.

Member Ball asked if there is an online tool that could help with these calculations, he said the University uses one. Chairperson David said he would like to locate an online tool and ask the Town to use it.

Chairperson David suggested that the Town of Boone include an energy report by department of the Town's usage into their quarterly reports. He suggested that the Town help figure out a way to reduce the usage by 10 percent over the next two years. It was discussed to start the new quarterly report process at the beginning of the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Discussion ensued on moving the SEEC meetings to the Council Chambers. Chairperson David asked that this topic be discussed at the next SEEC meeting. Meanwhile, Ms. Turner said she would check on the availability of the Council Chambers on the second Thursday of each month for the SEEC meetings.

Motion and Vote:

Member Gentry made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to require that all Town departments report their energy usage in kilowatt hours or gallons of fuel consumed in the quarterly reports and help figure out a way to reduce the usage by 10 percent over the next two years.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion on Bike Share

Member Ball said he is attending a meeting at the University on April 18, 2018 on this topic. He said the University is doing an RFP for bike share on two different models. One of the models has docking stations and the other model has spin bikes with a dock less-station. He said both models of bikes are GPS enabled. He said all major cities have both models. He said if the University chooses one of the models, the representatives from that model will solicit the Town of Boone to do Bike Share. He said his recommendation is to start the Bike Share program on the greenway which is a simply way to begin a Bike Share.

Member Ball said he is leaning towards the docking station model that the University will have to pay for. He said the students pay for the dock less station model.

Member Ball said the University is trying to do its own Bike Share program. He said they used to have access to the abandon bikes on the campus. He said since the state law had changed, they do not have access to them anymore. He said now the abandoned bikes go to the state surplus.

Member Ball said the University had asked him to check into a Bike Share program for the new Beaver College of Health Sciences building being built on State Farm Road. He said the faculty and students could park in the State Farm Road parking lot and ride a bike a quarter mile from that lot to the Beaver College of Health Sciences building. He will be checking on proposals for the University Bike Share program.

Discussion on Campus Resiliency Plan

Member Ball said that Resiliency has become a poplar buzz word when it comes to Sustainability. He said there are a lot of Town and Cities that have Resiliency committees and Resiliency positions in addition to Sustainability committees and Sustainability positions. It is typically to see these types of positions in larger cities like Miami, Florida and New York City, New York.

Member Ball talked about the need for a Resiliency Plan in case we have another blizzard of 1993 or a gas pipeline gets disrupted and the Town is not able to get food supplies or gas from outside sources. He noted that resiliency is our ability to adapt to change.

Member Ball said the President's Climate commitment has changed to add a Resiliency component and the University is also doing the same thing. He said the University has to create a Resiliency Plan and it has to include the community. He said the University has begun this process by mapping out what they are already doing. He said for example forming a safety team with the University Fire and Police Departments. He said the Town should also create a Resiliency Plan. He noted that the University already works with the Town of Boone Police and Fire Departments.

Member Ball said there are other factors to the Resiliency Plan that include psychological Resiliency which is the health and wellness of the community. He noted that healthy communities are going to be more resilient. He said the University will be contacting the Town of Boone to gather some information for their Resiliency Plan. He said the energy discussion plays strongly into the Resiliency Plan. He noted that when the use of energy is reduced, it makes the Town more resilient. It was noted that Dr. Rich Crepeau from the University and the Watauga County's Emergency Management Department will be asked to work with the Town on this plan.

Discussion on Solar Panels

Member Prickett explained that Vice-Chairperson Ayers had conversation with some people in the State of California that had solar panels in place on top of buildings that can charge an automobile. They also have solar panels on top of buildings that increases their energy by 25 percent.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Ms. Turner talked about the Unified Development Ordinance requirements to encourage developers to use Sustainable materials, when building new structures or doing renovations.

Member Gentry talked about the energy action plan and the SEEC discussing one specific thing in it and figuring out how to accomplish it. He said he would work on this idea for the next meeting.

Set agenda for next meeting:

- Discussion of Green Infrastructure Plan
- Review of NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan
- Discussion of the Energy Action Plan
- Discussion of Bike Share
- Discussion of Campus Resiliency Plan
- Discussion of Solar Panels
- Discussion to move SEEC Meeting Location to the Council Chambers

Adjournment

Member Stover made a motion, seconded by Member Gentry to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary