

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present:	Acting-Chairperson Quint David, John Prickett, Joan Brook, Brook Kornegay, Margie Mansure and Lee Ball
Town Council Liaisons Present:	Dustin Hicks, Nancy LaPlaca
Staff Members Present:	Christy Turner - Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby-Committee Secretary
Others Present:	John Ward – Boone Town Manager, Anna Twigg – Boone Town Intern, Ella Jennings and Chase Scott – Two Rivers School and Rebecca Nenow – Intern for Council Liaison Nancy LaPlaca

Call to Order

The Boone Sustainability Committee, held a virtual meeting via WebEx a video conferencing software at 5:36 p.m.

Discussion ensued on the acting-Chairperson for this meeting. As a result of Chairperson Harvard Ayers and Vice-Chairperson Benjamin Scarboro not being present at this virtual meeting, Member Quint David offered to be the acting-Chairperson for the meeting.

Motion and Vote:

Council Member LaPlaca made a motion, seconded by Member Ball to allow Member David to be the acting-Chairperson for this virtual meeting.

Aye – (Ball, Brook, Kornegay, Prickett, Mansure)

Nay – None

Abstain - (David)

The motion passed.

Acting-Chairperson David welcomed New Members, Brooke Kornegay and Margie Mansure to their first Sustainability Committee meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Prickett made a motion, seconded by Member Ball to adopt the agenda as written.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Ball made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to approve the February 13, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion ensued on the Toolkit

Acting-Chairperson David began discussion on the draft toolkit information dated March 12, 2020 located on page 22 of the meeting packet. In a brief overview of the draft toolkit document, Acting-Chairperson David talked about the background and process of the stated Town Goals for each Town Department. He further explained that the Sustainability Committee had taken proposed recommendations from each Town Department and included them into the draft toolkit.

Acting-Chairperson David opened the floor for questions regarding the draft toolkit. He noted that the framework from the STAR Community Rating system was used, when the proposed recommendations were being made for each Town Department.

Acting-Chairperson David reviewed some of the highlights in the draft toolkit. He talked about logging employee miles to gather data to help measure the impact on greenhouse gases and completing a greenhouse emissions study. He said the Sustainability Committee has discussed the possibility of restricting the use of plastic bags and initiating a program for re-usable bags in the Town.

Ms. Jane Shook, Director of Planning and Inspections Department explained that the Planning Staff had expected to receive feedback from each individual member of the Sustainability Committee regarding proposed changes for the draft toolkit. Ms. Shook noted that the Planning Staff had not received proposed changes or feedback for the draft toolkit. Ms. Shook asked if the Sustainability Committee wanted the Planning Staff to review and complete the draft toolkit document. Acting-Chairperson David suggested giving the Sustainability Committee one more month to provide feedback on the draft toolkit and consider approving the draft toolkit at next month's meeting. Member Prickett and Member Ball noted that they had previously submitted their recommendations to the Planning Staff. Member Ball agreed that the Sustainability Committee should review the draft toolkit one more time before submitting it to Council for approval.

Member Brook asked for specific clarification on the best way to provide feedback for each of the seven categories: built environment, equity and empowerment, climate and energy, health and safety, economy and jobs, natural systems and education, arts and community. Acting-Chairperson David explained that the seven categories are from the STAR Community Rating System. He suggested reviewing the whole STAR Community Rating System and look for things

that the Town is not already doing and include those items for discussion by the Sustainability Committee.

Ms. Shook explained that at this time, Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner is the Planning Staff liaison to the Sustainability Committee. Ms. Shook explained that she wants to make sure that the Sustainability Committee is taking this time to review the draft toolkit and make any proposed changes. She asked would the Sustainability Committee be sending their proposed changes to the Planning Staff before the next meeting or discuss their proposed changes at the next meeting. Ms. Shook suggested a deadline of July 2, 2020 for all of the feedback to be submitted to Ms. Turner. The Sustainability Committee agreed on the July 2, 2020 date. Acting-Chairperson David asked the Ms. Turner said that she would send out her email address to the Sustainability Committee members. Acting-Chairperson David suggested that the Planning Staff not revise the draft toolkit document before the next meeting; but to provide a compiled list of the feedback that they receive from the Sustainability Committee to be discussed at the next meeting. The Sustainability Committee agreed on the Planning Staff providing a compiled list of feedback at their next meeting.

Council Liaison Nancy LaPlaca told the Sustainability Committee that she would like to invite Mr. Cole from the Watauga County Solid Waste Department to a future Sustainability Committee meeting to talk about composting. Member Ball said the key to composting is having a place to take it too. He also said that Watauga County is working on a composting facility.

Discussion ensued on adding the topic of composting to the draft toolkit. Acting-Chairperson David agreed that composting should be discussed and possibly added to the draft toolkit for Town events held by all the Town Departments. Ms. Turner said the Planning Staff would add the topic of composting to the next Sustainability Committee meeting agenda. Member Ball talked about discussing the education of backyard composting and noted that there are various designs for composting one of which includes wire fencing. Council Liaison LaPlaca noted that in Orange County, North Carolina, they are subsidizing the cost of composting and the residents only pay half of the cost for composting. She said the composter cost is \$100.00 and they are sold to residents for \$50.00. Member Mansure said in the past the Watauga County Cooperative Extension has offered workshops on different types of composting. She said this is an available resource for the Town of Boone.

Discussion ensued on residential neighborhood waste drop off areas. Member Ball suggested that residential curbside waste pickup be discussed and possibly worked into the draft toolkit document. Council Liaison LaPlaca talked about the conflicting information regarding where the waste goes in North Carolina. Member Ball said that Ms. Jennifer Maxwell from the Appalachian State University Office of Sustainability is a good source for the topic of waste in North Carolina.

Other Matters/Informal Discussion

Plastics Proposal Presentation

Council Liaison Nancy LaPlaca noted that Ms. Ella Jennings had recently contacted her regarding giving a presentation which talks about the possibility of reducing the waste stream as it relates

to trash, recycling and composting. Ms. Shook loaded the presentation electronically into the WebEx video conferencing software. Ms. Chase Scott and Ms. Ella Jennings presented information on the North Carolina Environmental Waste Act of 2019 (permanently on file.) Ms. Scott explained that the North Carolina Environmental Waste Act of 2019 is an act that is trying to get governmental agencies or institutions throughout the State of North Carolina to purchase and use items that are not single-use plastic but have been previously recycled. Ms. Scott confirmed that if this Environmental Waste Act of 2019 is passed, it would allow the Town of Boone to set policies regarding waste.

Acting-Chairperson David asked Ms. Scott if the cafeteria at Appalachian State University counts as a State agency. Ms. Scott said she would get back to him with the answer to his question.

Mr. John Ward, Boone Town Manager informed the Sustainability Committee that the Town of Boone Public Works Department has been working with New River Light and Power Company and the Town has received a new rate for LED lighting. He said that he has also has been working with Mr. Ed Miller at NRLP on a credit to the Town. He said the credit was not taken from past paid electric bills; but a check for the credit amount was given to the Town. He explained that the credit came from the LED lights that the Town had installed without the LED rate. He said the Town used the credited amount of money they received and installed 100 LED street lights in the Town of Boone. He also informed the Sustainability Committee that the Town has planted 125 trees during the last few months. He noted that the Town is moving forward with the Bolick property site plan and it may be ready to be presented in July. He noted that a lot of streambank restoration is being done along the river frontage in the area of the Bolick property and Brookshire Park. He also explained that the Town has been replacing a lot of the annual plantings in the Downtown area with edible plants.

Discussion ensued on the additional information to send to the new members of the Sustainability Committee. Ms. Shook noted that there are draft toolkit minutes available to send out. Member Ball suggested including the document with the historical information. Acting-Chairperson David noted that he would contact the Planning Staff and discuss which documents that should be sent out to the new members for them to review regarding the draft toolkit.

Public Comment

Council Liaison LaPlaca introduced Ms. Rebecca Nenow and asked her to explain what she is doing in the Town of Boone. Ms. Nenow explained that is pursuing a refillery business and that will include a drop off for compost. Ms. Nenow explained that a refillery business is selling reusable containers for household use.

Adjournment

Member Ball made a motion, seconded by Member Kornegay, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None
The motion passed.

Quint David, Acting-Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

North Carolina Environmental Waste Act of 2019

Representatives Warren, McGrady, Grange and
Harrison

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "NC MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT OF 2019"

TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BY, AMONG OTHER MEASURES,

INCREASING REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO CITIES AND COUNTIES WITH PROGRAMS TO REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE,

ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AT STATE-OPERATED FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES,

AND DIRECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.

Section 1. Use of tax proceeds.

Using no more \$225,000...

- 50% to the Interactive Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund
- 32.5% to cities and counties in the State. Half of which goes to counties, half goes to cities.
- 5% to cities and counties in the State that provide plastic recycling services within their jurisdictions.
- 12.5% to the General Fund.

The Department of Environmental Quality must adopt a rule establishing criteria for eligibility under the subdivision, and provide the Secretary with a list of cities and counties eligible under this subdivision.

Section 2.(a)

-The Department of Administration in cooperation with the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service will identify recycled materials and supplies within:

- State Departments
- Institutions
- Agencies
- Community Colleges
- Local Schools

Guidelines will be proposed by the Department of Administration

Section 2.(b)

The summary reports will include authorized purchases of materials and supplies with recycled content that were purchased during the previous fiscal years.

Section 3

The Environmental Review Commission shall study the following...

- The environmental impacts of plastic pollution.
- The States current requirements for plastics recycling.
- Estimates of the amount of plastic recycled vs. plastic disposed in landfills.
- Recycling markets and available information on plastics collected for recycling in the State.
- Legislation in other states to regulate single-use plastics, especially bans.
- Private sector initiatives to reduce single-use plastics.
- Alternatives to single-use plastics.
- Any other issue that the commission may deem relevant.

Section 4.(a) & 4.(b)

Measures include:

- Does not result in disposal, prior to use of single use plastics already procured on the date this act becomes law
- Does not impair contracts of purchase already in effect on the date this act becomes law

Section 4.(b)

The Department shall issue a preliminary report on implementation of the requirements of this section to the Environmental Review Commission no later than September 1, 2019, and shall provide a final report to the Commission no later than March 1, 2020.