



**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

The Sustainability, Economics and Environment Committee will meet on **Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Planning & Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 W. King Street. The following items will be on the agenda:

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - June 14, 2018
- 4. Farmers Market Presentation**
- 5. Earth Awareness Day Event**
- 6. Other Matters by Commission Members or Staff**
 - Set agenda for next meeting
- 7. Adjournment**

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present:	Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers John Prickett, Benjamin Scarboro, Nicholas Stover, Nancy LaPlaca and Marshall Ashcraft
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Staff Members Present:	Christy Turner - Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby - Board Secretary
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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.

Chairperson David welcomed new Member Nancy LaPlaca to the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett, to adopt the agenda as amended by adding the following agenda items: Sustainability Forum Event, Review of Council Liaisons and Appalcart Update.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Stover made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett, to approve the May 10, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion of the Sustainability Forum Event

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner informed the committee members that the Council approved this event for September 7, 2018 starting at 5 p.m. at the Jones House and they preferred for the event to be called Earth Day.

Ms. Turner talked about the Bee City, USA portion of the Earth Day event. She said that the Town of Boone Public Works Department would be there talking about recycling and water conservation.

Ms. Turner informed the SEEC that the first resolution has been sent to Council to be voted upon at their June 2018 meeting. She said once the resolution has been voted on by Council, it has to be sent to Bee City, USA in Asheville, North Carolina for their approval before the Council can adopt it. She also talked about handing out pollinator seeds at this event.

Discussion ensued on the refreshments and entertainment for the September 7, 2018 event. It was suggested to have a band with music that would interest the University students to attend the event and families. It was also suggested to have a bee-type craft for the kids to do and hand out bee stickers. Ms. Pilar Fotta, Director of Cultural Resources suggested providing cake and lemonade. She also suggested asking for a donation of honey from the food hub and serve honey-type snacks for the kids. It was noted that the budget for this event is \$1,200.00. Ms. Fotta said that she would put a list of options together for this event and email them to Ms. Turner for her review.

Ms. Turner explained that the Historic Preservation Commission talked about showing images of the properties that they have helped to preserve in Boone such as the Appalachian Theatre, Downtown Boone Post Office, Linney House and Linney Law Office.

Discussion ensued on involving the Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, a Bee Club and the Honey Farms could have a bee display. Chairperson David said he could contact the Bee Club and ask someone to attend the event who can answer questions on bees. Ms. Turner said that Member Ball has a way to put a camera in a bee hive for the public to view.

Discussion ensued on creating a Party Planning Committee. Chairperson David, Member Stover and Member Scarboro volunteered to be on this committee. It was the consensus of the SEEC for this committee to be formed with the said members of the committee. Ms. Turner said that she would check with the Town Clerk to see if an action request is needed for Council approval for the forming of said committee. The SEEC decided to have the first meeting of the Party Planning Committee at the Jones House located at 604 W. King Street at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.

Discussion on Green Infrastructure Plan

Chairperson David reviewed the Nashville, Tennessee Green Infrastructure Plan. He said they call it *Nashville Naturally*, the first conservation plan that maps every inch of protected open space in Davidson County-and charts a clear vision for how to protect and connect this green infrastructure (see permanently attached). He said that he created some goals and some thoughts for an open space vision for Boone and he asked the SEEC to do the same thing. He said he would email the SEEC the Nashville Green Infrastructure Plan link for their review and discussion at the next meeting. He suggested turning the goals created by the SEEC into a to-do-list for things that might be done in Boone.

Chairperson David reviewed a Green Infrastructure Plan proposal that he created for the Town of Boone. He noted that the committee can discuss this information at the next meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said he was asked by Council Member Lynne Mason to look into ways to improve walking and biking in the Town of Boone. Chairperson David talked about the information contained in the updated 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He said this plan has a map that shows the walking and biking improvements.

Chairperson David said the Appalcart routes are changing. He talked about High Ridership Stops. He said the Appalcart has 13,000 riders per day now. He said about ten years ago there were about 500,000 riders per day. He said most of the Appalcart complaints are that the buses are full, when they need to ride them.

Chairperson David talked about transportation deserts in the Town and the need for good cross walks. He explained that the Town has a Transportation Committee that works on these types of things. Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner said she could invite Mr. Marty Little, Planner to attend the next Sustainability, Economics and Environment Committee meeting to give an update on the work of the Transportation Committee on the Boone Greenway.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers asked Chairperson David if Appalcart had any electric buses. Chairperson David said that there is no money in their budget to purchase electric buses but they are open to someone donating the money for Appalcart to purchase one. Chairperson David said that Appalcart did add two new non-electric buses to their fleet. Chairperson David said that Appalcart is purchasing their buses from Craig List and the cost of the buses is \$450,000.00 each. It was noted that an electric bus usually costs twice this amount.

Chairperson David asked the committee members to think of some Green Infrastructure Plan goals to be discussed at the next meeting. He suggested ideas like: path to Howards Knob, connecting the greenway from Boone to Blowing Rock and establishing the Historic Boone Trail.

Chairperson David suggested having a SEEC meeting at one of the Town parks, he said he would arrange it in the next few months.

Review of NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said if the \$100,000.00 for the energy action plan is approved by Council after July 1, 2018 the location of the solar collectors will need to be identified for solar power.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said more funding is needed through federal funds, grants or individuals for the amount of approximately \$8 to \$10 Million dollars for the energy action plan.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said that he resigned from the Solutions Coalition about four weeks ago. He said that he might be joining the Climate Voices, USA.

Discussion of the Energy Action Plan

Chairperson David said the SEEC would discuss this agenda item at the next meeting.

Discussion on Campus Resiliency Plan

This agenda item was not discussed because Member Ball was not at this meeting. It was suggested to discuss this agenda item at the next meeting.

Discussion on Moving the SEEC Meeting Location to Council Chambers

The SEEC showed an interest in moving the future meetings to the fourth Thursday of each month. It was noted that the Council Chambers are available on the fourth Thursdays. Several of the SEEC did not want to move the meetings to the Council Chambers, they preferred keeping the meetings in the Downtown area. There was a concern voiced about the traffic issue in trying to get to the Council Chambers by 5:30 p.m. from the Downtown area. It was the consensus of the SEEC that they did need a larger meeting space. Ms. Turner said that the Planning Staff could conduct a doodle poll to help determine the time and location of the SEEC meetings. Chairperson David said the SEEC would further discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Chairperson David said that Appalcart is adding and deleting routes and you can see these changes on their website at www.Appalcart.com. He said that the Appalcart public hearing date is on June 25, 2018 to vote on the route changes.

Ms. Turner asked Member Ashcraft what the Council may have decided on hiring a position for Sustainability. Member Ashcraft said the Council's tentative plan is to use internships for now for the Sustainability position.

It was noted that the Energy Action Plan public hearing is on the Council's agenda for possibly Tuesday, June 19, 2018 or Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 6 p.m. He said they will discuss the different potential projects to be done over the next year. He encouraged some of the SEEC to attend this public hearing and talk in favor of the potential projects.

Member Ashcraft left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Review of Council Liaisons

Ms. Turner asked the SEEC to answer the following questions requested by Council at their May 2018 meeting.

10. What are the committee's major accomplishments in the last year? The 2017 goals were approved and some progress has been made on them but budget dollars are needed to make more progress.

11. What are the projects this committee is currently working on? The 2017 goals

12. Are there activities of the committee which could be handled by Town Staff alone? The Town Staff is more available in winter than summer due to department work load. Chairperson David said the SEEC has reached a point where they can only do so much in a one-hour meeting. He said an intern or Town position is needed and if they do not get one, he feels that none of the approved goals will be able to happen. He said the SEEC created the Town goals and put that

amount of dollars for the goals into the budget request. He said the SEEC is following up on how to integrate the goals into the Town budget.

13. What role do Town Council members on this committee serve? The Council members help relay information to the other Council members from the SEEC meetings. The Council members add additional input based off their knowledge of a certain topic. The Council members have helped make a quorum.

14. Do Town Council members of this committee receive special deference because they are on the Town Council? It was said that not having the Council Members at the meetings would be detrimental because the Council needs as much input as they can get.

Adjournment

Member Scarboro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m., seconded by Member Prickett.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary