

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present:	Vice-Chairperson Benjamin Scarboro, John Prickett, Lee Ball, Luanna Nesbit, Ballard Reynolds, Brooke Kornegay, Margie Mansure, Joan Brook and Terry Cirone
Town Council Liaisons Present:	Nancy LaPlaca and Dustin Hicks
Staff Members Present:	Jane Shook-Director of Planning & Inspections, Mike James-Senior Planner, and Marlene Crosby-Board Secretary
Others Present:	None

Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson Benjamin Scarboro called the Boone Sustainability Committee, virtual meeting via WebEx, a video conferencing software, to order on September 10, 2020 at 5:35 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Reynolds to amend the agenda to add the election of a Chairperson and the topic of a primary school position on the Sustainability Committee.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay- None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Reynolds to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Toolkit Discussion

Ms. Jane Shook, Director of Planning and Inspections explained that the draft Toolkit had been sent to the Town Clerk to be included on the next Council agenda. She said the Planning Staff will give a status update meeting. Ms. Shook said after the Council agenda comes out, she would email the Sustainability Committee members to let them know which night the draft Toolkit agenda item will be on. She said that if any Sustainability Committee member would like to attend the Council meeting, they would need to let her know via email at jane.shook@townofboone.net.

She said that Mr. John Ward, Town Manager would have to send out the invite to the virtual Council meeting.

Election of Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro explained the process for nominating a Sustainability Committee member for Chairperson.

Member Ball nominated Member Brooke Kornegay for position of Chairperson. Member Kornegay accepted the nomination for Chairperson. There were no other nominations.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay- None

The motion passed.

Next Assignments

Discussion ensued on the next assignments. Ms. Shook explained that Council had directed the Sustainability Committee to make recommendations on three tasks that they would like to focus on next now that the toolkit was completed. Member Mansure talked about investigating a partnership between the County and the Town on composting. She suggested moving forward with inviting Mr. Cole Kiziha to give a presentation on “Dinner2Dirt” which was mentioned at a previous meeting. Vice-Chairperson Scarboro said he could invite Mr. Cole Kiziha from “Dinner2Dirt” to attend the next meeting. Council Liaison LaPlaca talked about net metering and energy efficiencies and noted that she had educational information to present on this topic. Vice-Chairperson Scarboro talked about affordable housing. Ms. Shook noted that the Town has a work plan that includes working on affordable housing. Ms. Shook also noted that Watauga County has an affordable housing task force. Member Ball talked about a bike or ride share program. He said that Appalachian State University is bringing a ride share program to campus. Member Reynolds talked about cutting down on individual vehicle emissions and suggested a four-day work week. Member Reynolds talked about incentivizing to re-insulate houses including windows or penalize the landlords for not improving the insulation and windows. Member Prickett talked about using geo-thermal as a heating source for residential houses.

Ms. Shook confirmed that the Sustainability Committee wanted to focus on net metering and energy efficiencies, bike or ride share for sustainable transportation and Town and county wide composting.

Discussion ensued on alternative transportation. Ms. Shook explained that the Town has an Alternative Transportation Plan. Ms. Shook said at some point, she would go over the applicable Town plans with the Sustainability Committee members. Member Mansure noted that she was on the Alternate Transportation Committee, but they had not met for a while. Council Liaison LaPlaca noted that the Alternative Transportation committee might need to start meeting again to discuss ways for transportation to become more sustainable.

Discussion ensued on community engagement. Vice-Chairperson Scarboro talked about including community feedback indefinitely because it provides information from the Community to the Council. Ms. Shook explained that there is a Town webpage that is being used to engage the Community. Chairperson Kornegay pointed out that it is important to get the Community input but there are wide topics in Sustainability. Chairperson Kornegay asked how other Communities handle Community engagement. Ms. Shook pointed out that for other boards like the Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment and Historic Preservation Commission that state law rules over the public comment. Ms. Shook also pointed out that there are a variety of ways to get public input.

Council Liaison LaPlaca suggested inviting to the next Sustainability Committee meeting, Ms. Jennifer Maxwell from the Appalachian State University Sustainability office and asked Member Ball to invite her to discuss sustainable topics.

Ms. Shook asked the Sustainability Committee members if they wanted to vote to make a recommendation to send the three new proposed tasks to Council at this meeting. Or to have an informational session at the next Sustainability Committee meeting and vote and to make a recommendation to Council at next month's meeting. Ms. Shook explained the process of the Planning Staff creating an action request that places their recommendation on the Council agenda.

Motion and Vote:

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to recommend to Council that the Sustainability Committee work on the following proposed three tasks based on Council's request: Energy Efficiencies, Sustainable Transportation and County and Town-wide composting.

Vote:

Aye-All

Nay-None

The motion passed.

Informal Discussion/Other Matters

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro began discussion on including liaisons from the elementary school and high school.

Discussion ensued on changing the meeting date for the Sustainability Committee meetings.

Discussion ensued on recommending students to be on the Sustainability Committee. Council Liaison LaPlaca noted that she would like to recommend Ms. Ella Jennings from Two Rivers School to be on the committee. Ms. Shook pointed out that the only other two schools left to check on interested students in the Boone area are Hardin Park Elementary School and Watauga High School. Council Liaison LaPlaca said that she knows another student from Watauga High School who belongs to the Sunrise Group. Member Nesbit said she is familiar with the Sunrise Group

and she can contact them to see if anyone is interested in being a part of the Boone Sustainability Committee as an honorary non-voting member. Ms. Shook confirmed that there was consensus from the Sustainability Committee members for the Planning Staff to create an action request to recommend to Council for elementary or high school students to be a part of the Sustainability Committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairperson Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Reynolds to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Benjamin Scarboro, Vice-Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary