

TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, Christian Gentry and Lee Ball

COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Christy Turner, Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David called to order the meeting of the Boone Sustainability, Economics and Environmental committee, held in the Planning & Inspections - Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 West King Street, at 5:51 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Member Gentry 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 Gentry to approve the August 10, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

STARS COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM UPDATE

Dr. Marie Hoepfl from the College of Business at Appalachian State University said that the STARS Community Rating System is separate from the ASU STARS community which is an organization that has eight categories and each of these categories have eight or ten individual areas in the STAR communities rating system. She said there are two groups of university students that deal with technology and communication. She said the university students are looking at what the Town of Boone is currently doing regarding the various categories of the rating system. She

said by the end of this year the Town of Boone will have information on where they would stand, if they went through the STARS Community rating system.

Dr. Hoepfl said the research on these topics was spurred by a grant that the university received.

Member Ball asked if the fees relate to the rating system. Chairperson David said he read that the fees are \$1,000 per year annual fee which gives access to their website to download all of the requirements of the rating system. Dr. Hoepfl said the framework for the rating system can be accessed for free because the technical guide was purchased by the university.

Chairperson David explained that at the last Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee meeting, it was decided by the committee for each member to choose a category to research and report back to the committee.

Member Gentry talked about the things that can be discussed that do not cost any money. He said one of these things could be proposed changes to the code. He suggested that the SEEC make a list of things that could be possibly changed in the code and the SEEC could discuss them at the next committee meeting.

Member Ball noted that the university students working on the rating system would benefit from the Renewable Energy Assessment Report that was prepared by Vice-Chairperson Ayers (Dr. Harvard Ayers from the Climate Times).

Member Ball asked Dr. Hoepfl how she plans to serve the community members. Dr. Hoepfl said there has not been a decision made on this topic at this time. She talked about possibly using an online surveying instrument. It was noted that information can be included in the monthly Town water bill mailings.

The SEEC thanked Dr. Hoepfl and the university students for all of her work on the rating system.

ENERGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Chairperson David explained that the Energy Action Plan is a part of the STARS Community rating system. He also noted that this topic has been a part of the 2030 Boone Master Plan since 2009.

Chairperson David talked about the Town of Boone spending \$1 Million dollars a year on energy. He suggested at the next committee meeting discussing the forming an Energy Action Plan Task Force to discuss the Energy Action Plan which would include the Town of Boone Renewable Energy Assessment Report (permanently attached). Chairperson Ayers said he would ask the person who did the study to attend the next committee meeting to answer questions on it.

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner notified the SEEC that there would need to be an action request for Council to approve the Energy Action Plan Task Force. Ms. Turner said she would submit the action request to the Town Clerk on Friday, September 15, 2017.

OTHER MATTERS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR STAFF

Set agenda for next meeting.

Chairperson David said the 2017 goals have been approved by Council. He said one of these goals involved making the Town of Boone a Bee City, USA and updating the Tree plans. He asked if anyone knows of someone interested in donating trees to the Town to let the SEEC know.

Member Ball asked if the Town has any properties that are not developable. He said any trees on these types of properties can be used in the university energy plan. He noted that these have to be protected way into the future.

Chairperson David said the action request he submitted to Council was to review the Town Tree plans and locate areas to plant 1,000 trees. He said at the 2017 Arbor Celebration, he would like for the planting of trees to be a main topic of discussion with the intent for a significant number of trees to be planted. Ms. Turner noted that Mr. Brian Johnson, Urban Design Specialist will be at the Council meeting to answer questions on the trees.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers noted that for solar purposes we have to be careful where the trees are planted.

Member Gentry talked about looking at other energy sources other than solar. He suggested discussing at the next meeting the wind information he has for Howards Knob.

Discussion ensued on bio-fuel. Chairperson David said he would like to discuss this topic at the next committee meeting. He noted that bio-fuel is listed in the STARS Community rating system.

AJOURNMENT

Member Gentry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Ayers to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary