

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present:	Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, Benjamin Scarboro, John Prickett and Nancy LaPlaca
Council Members:	Sam Furgiuele and Marshall Ashcraft
Staff Members Present:	Marty Little – Planner and Marlene Crosby-Committee Secretary

Call to Order

Chairperson David called to order the meeting of the Boone Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee, held in the Town Council Chambers Room located at 1500 Blowing Rock Road at 5:39 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Ayers to accept the agenda as written.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairperson Ayers made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to accept the October 11, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion of the Energy Action Plan

Chairperson David said at the last meeting the Sustainability, Economics and Environment Committee reviewed the Town's energy usage along with doing some conversion to carbon equivalents. He said the approximate carbon usage from the Town is about 9,000 tons rather

than 12, 000 tons as previously stated. He said the SEEC members are still waiting on confirmation from the Town on the actual numbers of natural gas and propane usage of some of the Departments of the Town.

Discussion ensued on breaking up the sustainable topics into achievable goals. Chairperson David talked about the way the Town budget is set up and the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Departments are listed separately in the budget. He said these departments are costing around \$500,000.00 of the \$750,000.00 per year. He said the water and sewer rates are separate from taxes and are a different way to fund improvements that are made to the water and sewer system. He noted that two-thirds of the electricity and propane usage is from these two departments to dry out the solids.

Chairperson David talked about the propane usage for drying out the solids at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said this would be a good topic to research to find ways to reduce the amount of carbon from the propane usage. It was suggested to invite the Town of Boone Director of the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the next SEEC meeting to answer questions prepared by the SEEC members. Member Prickett suggested that the SEEC members visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant or request a schematic of the operation of the building to review to help figure out ways to reduce the carbon usage.

Discussion ensued on capturing the methane gas. Member Prickett said the amount of methane gas is low at this time and it is becoming impossible to economically capture the gas. He said at the Wastewater Treatment Plant the gas may be coming off all in one location.

Member Marshall talked about using the methane gas from the treatment process to dry out the solids to help reduce the energy consumption.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers pointed out that the Town is currently using 11 or 12 megawatts of energy.

Chairperson David explained that the Town is using around \$740,000.00 of electricity, \$170,000.00 in natural gas and LP and \$246,000.00 in gas and diesel a year.

Chairperson David talked about the need to have the usage information first to review before the SEEC can talk about partnering with others and discussing ways to offset the carbon usage for electricity and fuel.

Member Furgiuele suggested that the SEEC members discuss the dollar amounts to be allocated to the action steps of the specifically defined goals. He said it would be prudent to come up with something that is feasible and manageable for the next year.

Discussion ensued on specifically identifying the goals and action steps for the next year for budget purposes. Chairperson David said the Town knows they need about seven or eight

proposed megawatts to have 100 percent renewable energy; and the Town just needs the dollars to pay for it.

Discussion ensued on financing the sustainable goals. Chairperson David referred to the New River Light and Power Survey results that stated that the customers were willing to pay a little more for renewable energy but they wanted to know about the options. Chairperson David talked about the possibility of the issuance of a bond to help with financing. Member Furgiuele explained that the issuance of a bond would require Council's support on the concept and three Council members would need to agree on it. Member Prickett said he has seen it work many times to go to each of the Town departments and ask them to come forward with their projects and ask them how much money do they need to reduce their capital that they are given each year to operate on.

Chairperson David said the SEEC members could recommend to Council that the SEEC members work on each line item or department by department.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers talked about the first two or three years of solar development in the Town. He suggested starting with roof top units, and possibly including solar at the new Town Municipal building and New River Light and Power getting the new vendor NTE in 2022.

Member LaPlaca suggested inviting an NTE representative to a SEEC meeting to learn more about contract and is there a cap on the contract, she said that we would want a high cap on it. Member Furgiuele agreed with Member LaPlaca on this suggestion. Vice-Chairperson Ayers said that he would talk to Mr. John Ward, Boone Town Manager to try to coordinate inviting a representative from NTE to attend a SEEC meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said he has been talking to Ford and Chevrolet regarding what they have to offer in electric vehicles. H said he wanted to discuss with the Boone Chief of Police regarding adding Chevrolet and Ford Focus electric police vehicles to their fleet. He suggested going to Shelby, North Carolina to test drive an electric Ford Focus police vehicle.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers also suggested test driving an electric bus at a company called Proterra located in Greenville, South Carolina. He said he would like to take an experienced bus driver to do the test driving.

Discussion ensued on how the meeting law requirements apply to a field trip to test drive electric vehicles. Member Scarboro confirmed, if more than two SEEC members go on the field trip that meeting must be advertised and minutes must be taken. Vice-Chairperson Ayers said he could work on arranging transportation for the field trip, if it is approved.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers talked about three sources of money for the sustainable goals. He said there is the \$93 million dollars that came to the United States from the VW to help the public go to electric vehicles, the Federal Trade Commission has a "low no program" that gives out grants

for sustainable purposes and the Executive Order 80 which deals with electric vehicles, offshore wind and solar.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers talked about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline increasing methane gases. He explained that the methane in the pipeline which is natural gas will be burned and will produce much more than 40 percent of our current level of greenhouse gases. He said the amount of methane is 12 times more than the 40 percent.

Member Furguele left the meeting at approximately 6:32 p.m.

Member Scarboro reviewed the list of action steps from the Town of Boone 2030 Energy Action Plan discussed at the October 2018 meeting. Member Scarboro made changes to the list (permanently attached).

Ms. Janet Miller from Appalachian Energy Center at Appalachian State University introduced herself and explained why she was attending this SEEC meeting. She said that her department is looking for ways to work on the Renewable 2050 Energy Plan through the Town and the University with grants that include an educational component. She said her department can do research to go through energy bills and locating potential solar sites in the Boone area. She talked about the Overland Project. Member LaPlaca suggested inviting Ms. Miller to do a presentation on said project at a future meeting. It was the consensus of the SEEC members to invite a representative of the Appalachian Energy Center to attend a future meeting to do a presentation on the Overland Project.

Member LaPlaca suggested recommending a part-time person to work on the action plan goals. Chairperson David explained that the SEEC members have already made that recommendation and it did not get funded. Member LaPlaca suggested making another recommendation for a part-time person. Vice-Chairperson Ayers suggested making a recommendation for an intern because he had a good experience with working with interns in the past.

Chairperson David said he would send out a link to the Department of Energy Guide to Community Energy Strategic Planning. He said that we are in the final stage of identifying financing and creating the implementation blueprint.

Chairperson David reminded the SEEC members about the 2017 goal to build another public private solar project in a high traffic area.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

There were no other matters discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairperson Ayers made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

TOB 2030 Energy Action Plan Outline

(Before Revisions on November 8, 2018)

In order to realize the TOBs adopted goals regarding energy sustainability,

Manage and Monitor carbon emissions

- Periodically perform independent audit of energy use, carbon impact etc.

- Take action based on these audits with the explicit goal of reducing TOB carbon footprint

Operate existing infrastructure more sustainably

- Bring personalized action items to each department from periodic energy audits

Increase citizen awareness

- Publish audit results, departmental actions and results on town website, update annually

- Work with NRLP and/or BREMCO on household energy reports

- Work with NRLP and or BREMCO to develop voluntary anonymized reporting on energy use

- Advertise methods to decrease household carbon footprint based on the results

Develop local incentives for efficiency and alternative energy production

- Incentivize based on NRLP/BREMCO reporting

- PACE financing

- Incentivize and promote the installation of two way meters and residential energy production

Pursue public/private solar project

Review and accelerate sustainable practices with a goal of being 100% renewable by 2050

- Maintain a 2% reduction in carbon emissions each year

TOB 2030 Energy Action Plan Outline

(After Revisions on November 8, 2018)

In order to realize the TOBs adopted goals regarding energy sustainability, and because of the significant person-power needed,

Create and staff an office of sustainability with the goal of and responsibility for:

- Managing and Monitoring carbon emissions
 - Perform yearly independent audits of energy use, carbon impact etc.
 - Take action based on these audits with the explicit goal of reducing TOB carbon footprint
- Operating existing infrastructure more sustainably
 - Bring personalized action items to each department from periodic energy audits
 - Work with each department to refine reporting and processes in order to more accurately reflect and reduce fossil resource use.
- Increasing citizen awareness
 - Publish audit results, departmental actions and results on town website, update annually
 - Work with NRLP and/or BREMCO on household energy reports
 - Work with NRLP and/or BREMCO to develop voluntary anonymized reporting on energy use
 - Advertise methods to decrease household carbon footprint based on the results
- Developing local incentives for efficiency and alternative energy production
 - Incentivize based on NRLP/BREMCO reporting
 - Promote on bill financing
 - Promote PACE financing (less effective due to owner/renter split)
 - Incentivize and promote net metering and residential energy production
- Pursuing a public/private solar project
- Reviewing and accelerating sustainable practices with a goal of being 100% renewable by 2050
 - Maintain a 2% reduction in carbon emissions each year as reported through the annual audits