

**TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers, Nancy LaPlaca, Joan Brook, John Prickett, Benjamin Scarboro and Lee Ball

Town Council Liaisons Present: Sam Furgiuele and Marshall Ashcraft

Staff Members Present: Marty Little- Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby-Committee Secretary

Others Present:

Call to Order

Chairperson Quint David called to order the Boone Sustainability Committee, held in the Planning and Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 W. King Street at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Prickett made a motion, seconded by Member Scarboro to adopt 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 approve the September 12, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – (Ayers, Brook, LaPlaca, Prickett, Quint)

Nay – None

Abstain – (Ball)

The motion passed.

Town Manager Update

Mr. Marty Little, Senior Planner, gave an update on two items for Mr. John Ward, Boone Town Manager. He said these updates were to be presented at the last Sustainability Committee meeting but that meeting was cancelled because there was not a quorum at that time. Mr. Little handed out an email that he had received from Mr. Ward (permanently on file). Mr. Little said that Mr. Ward is coordinating with Mr. Reid Conway, Senior Energy Specialist in the State Energy Office, to conduct a review of the energy usage at the Jimmy Smith Waste Water Plant. If opportunities for improvement are identified, there may be access to state grant funds for implementation.

The email from Mr. John Ward also mentioned that he has reached out to a program called SolSmart from the International City County Managers Association (ICCMA) and Solar Foundation, which is funded through the US Department of Energy. In the email, Mr. Ward states that the program conducts ordinance reviews in order to pinpoint any barriers to solar, and provides suggestions for revisions that can reduce time and expense associated with the installation of rooftop solar systems.

Mr. Little handed out an email that summarized a Resiliency Workshop that he and Mr. Brian Johnson, Urban Design Specialist, attended in Kernersville, North Carolina on November 5, 2019 (permanently on file). He said it was a component of the NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan of Executive Order 80. He said that local stakeholders attended the meeting and gave feedback on current issues and needs. He said the State Climatologist was at the workshop and that she gave a presentation on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) North Carolina Summary. He said that at the workshop, they also referenced the Piedmont Triad Climate Resiliency Toolkit. He suggested that the Sustainability Committee members review this resiliency plan because it is very informative and somewhat relevant to the committee's current task.

Chairperson David noted that the meeting packet contains all of the meeting minutes from the different departments of the Town, as presented by the Town of Boone Department heads. Mr. Little noted that the format of the toolkit should be considered at this meeting. Chairperson David asked the Committee members, for example, how they would like the toolkit to approach the electricity usage of each Town department. He noted that one way to do it is by building per department.

Discussion ensued on creating a Sustainability Committee Sub-Committee. Member LaPlaca asked if a sub-committee could be formed to work on specific items for the toolkit. Mr. Little said the current ordinance does not allow for it. However, he explained that the Sustainability Committee can make a recommendation to Council regarding the creation of a sub-committee.

Chairperson David talked about the offsetting of carbon and the use of electric vehicles.

Chairperson David suggested reviewing the highlights of the meeting minutes. Member LaPlaca asked about the update on the New River Light and Power (NRLP) power-purchase agreement from the March 14, 2019 Sustainability Committee meeting minutes. Member Ball explained that ASU and NRLP do not have a site location for the solar array. He further explained that the previous site that was mentioned for the proposed location on Hwy 321 just outside of Boone will not be the site location because it is on the Blue Ridge Electric grid and they prefer that the site be located on the NRLP grid.

Member LaPlaca said she had some questions about NTE. Member Ball suggested that she put them in writing. Member Ball said that, at this time, the partnership is not with NTE, it is with Appalachian State University and New River Light and Power. Member Ball said one of the main challenges remains identifying a site on the New River Light and Power solar grid.

Member LaPlaca asked Member Ball about net metering for commercial and residential properties, which are two separate rates. He told her that if she asked Mr. Ed Miller from New River Light and Power about it now, it may be possible because the timing was good.

Discussion ensued on PACE financing. Chairperson David said this might be a good opportunity for PACE financing. Member LaPlaca pointed out that the man who wrote the book on PACE financing is Mr. Jack Hughes, who is from North Carolina and teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She said he was just appointed to the North Carolina Utilities Commission. She also noted that he is familiar with the financing of utilities process.

Discussion ensued on the goals for the Town of Boone. Chairperson David said the Town of Boone goal is to be 100 percent climate neutral by 2030 for all municipal operations, 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 for all municipal operations, and 100 percent renewable for the Boone Community by 2050.

Chairperson David said he would send out the Sustainability Committee goals to help everyone while they are reviewing the meeting minutes and making recommendations.

Council Liaison Ashcraft made suggestions for ways to categorize and process the greenhouse gas emissions by type for departments and consumption by category. He said he would send the information that he has to Chairperson David for his review. He also suggesting keeping other important items such as a possible power-purchase agreement on the table even though they may not be part of the current toolkit discussion for Town Operations.

Chairperson David said he would research what other communities are doing to process their information. He said he would also poll the Sustainability Committee members on what is most important to work on first and on whether they want to look at the overall picture or look at each department to make recommendations for the Committee to vote on to send to Council.

Member Scarboro asked about having an officer to manage or document the changes or improvements that are made.

Discussion ensued on solar rules. Member LaPlaca said that South Carolina passed the best package of solar rules she has seen. She said that community-owned solar is a key part of their solar rules. She noted that the rules will allow the market to thrive and operate on its own. Council Liaison Ashcraft talked about scaling up community solar.

At 6:15 p.m., Council Liaison Furguele joined the meeting.

Discussion ensued on wind as an alternate source of power. Chairperson David said it might be more affordable to have a wind turbine than to purchase land to put in a solar farm. Member Scarboro asked about transmission losses. Member LaPlaca noted that the State of Tennessee has enough available wind to balance renewables.

Discussion ensued on transportation options. Chairperson David talked about the transportation issues and the widening of roads and the increasing of emissions. Member Brook talked about

the traffic problems in Boone. Chairperson David talked about transportation options such as the use of scooters and bike lanes. Chairperson David said the Town and other groups outside of the Town are working on the transportation issues of Boone.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Mr. Little reminded the Committee members of the Town of Boone Volunteer Breakfast to be held on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 9 a.m. at the Dan'l Boone Inn.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers asked how many departments have been presented at the Sustainability Committee meetings. Mr. Little said there have been six meetings with more than one department presented at some of the meetings.

Discussion ensued on how the Sustainability Committee will move forward with the review and recommendations for the toolkit of the information on the Departments of the Town. Chairperson David said that he would work with Mr. Little on creating a simple format for everyone to follow in the order that the Town Departments appear in the meeting packet to be discussed at the next Sustainability Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Ayers to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Sustainability Committee Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

Marlene Crosby - Fwd: Energy Audit & Solar Ord Review

From: Marty Little
To: Marlene Crosby
Date: 12/2/2019 2:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: Energy Audit & Solar Ord Review
Attachments: John Ward.vcf; John Ward.vcf

This is the email from John referenced in last month's Sustainability meeting.

Marty Little
 Senior Planner

Town of Boone
 Planning & Inspections Department
 680 W. King Street, Suite C
 Boone, NC 28607
(828)268-6960

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From: John Ward
To: Mayor and Council
CC: Rick Miller; Jane Shook; Marty Little
Date: 9/25/2019 3:05 PM
Subject: Fwd: Energy Audit & Solar Ord Review

Dear Mayor and Council,

1. I wanted to let you all know that I'm coordinating with Reid Conway, Senior Energy Specialist, in the State Energy Office to conduct a review of the energy use at the

Jimmy Smith Waste Water Plant. This is our highest use facility in the Town of Boone and is supplied by Blue Ridge Electric. Reid has agreed to cover the cost of the audit. I'll let you know when I heard of dates and information they may need prior to visiting.

Sounds like this is the first step in a process with them so if items are identified they also may have access to state grant funds for implementation.

2. I have also reached out to an organization that I am a member of, International City County Manager Association (ICCMA), to request to be added to a program they have called SolSmart. This program is led by the Solar Foundation and ICCMA and is funded by the US Dept of Energy.

Much like our storm-water review, this organization reviews our current ordinance and provides suggestions that will reduce the time and expense required to install solar energy systems and roof top solar. Previous projects they have been involved in have resulted in additional residential, commercial and utility

scale solar projects in the communities they have partnered with.

I'll keep you posted as I move forward.

Sincerely,

John A. Ward III
Town Manager
Town of Boone

567 W. King Street
Boone, NC 28607

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>>> John Ward 9/25/2019 2:57 PM >>>

I wanted to let you all know that I'm coordinating with Reid Conway, Senior Energy Specialist, in the State Energy Office to conduct a review of the energy use at the Jimmy Smith Waste Water Plant. Reid has agreed to cover the cost of the audit. I'll let you know when I heard of dates and information they may need prior to visiting so we can coordinate and make sure you all will be available. Sounds like this is the first step in a process with them so if items are identified they also may have access to state grant funds for implementation.

I'll keep you posted.

Sincerely,

John A. Ward III
Town Manager
Town of Boone

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Marlene Crosby - Fwd: Climate Resilience Workshop 11/4

From: Marty Little
To: Marlene Crosby
Date: 12/2/2019 2:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: Climate Resilience Workshop 11/4
Attachments: Agenda.pdf; NC Climate Summary.pdf

This is one of the emails referenced during the November Sustainability meeting.

Marty Little
 Senior Planner

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From: Marty Little
To: Jane Shook
CC: John Ward
Date: 11/5/2019 5:00 PM
Subject: Climate Resilience Workshop 11/4

Brian and I attended the Regional Resiliency Workshop in Kernersville yesterday. The workshop is one of several being held across the state. Its main purpose was to engage local, regional, and state stakeholders and gather input for the NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan, a component of Executive Order 80.

Main takeaways from the workshop:

1. Better understanding of how changes in global climate are currently affecting (and are expected to continue to affect) North Carolina, especially the agricultural economy, coastal plain, and urban areas.
2. Current ways we measure storms is misleading and should be evaluated. ex: 100-year flood, 10/25-year design storms, and hurricane wind speed categories (with no categories for rainfall) are not realistic metrics for our current climate, much less future.
3. Stormwater management systems should be built for more frequent and more intense rain events, and be bigger, stronger, and larger. Areas that are known to flood should be preserved as greenspace, recreation, or urban agriculture. Green areas with amenities can increase adjacent property values.
4. Resiliency planning is crucial to address issues caused by changing climate, and should focus on "no regret strategies", or strategies with no negative consequences (tree plantings, increased green infrastructure, etc)

5. Biggest overall need for local governments is funding.

Included are:

- Workshop agenda
- North Carolina Climate Summary (NOAA)
- [Piedmont Triad Climate Resiliency Toolkit](#) (link only)

Marty Little
Senior Planner

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