

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 8, 2020

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Shawn Santasiere, Susannah Everett, Katie Fratoni, Al Fratoni, Brendan Murphy (guest), Dawn Niles (guest), Doug Bertone (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by chairperson Stoddard.

Introductions were made to welcome guests from the Sustainable CT Windham team.

The Committee approved the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting on a motion by Lennon/Fratoni.

With members of Sustainable CT Windham present, the committee discussed a joint town Solar for All campaign this spring offered through Sustainable CT. Both towns already have their letters of interest filed with Sustainable CT. The committee reviewed the role of participating communities during a Solar for All campaign. Doug Bertone will serve as the delegate for Windham. Millman will be asked if he would like to serve as Mansfield's delegate. Dawn Niles offered to contact Jess LeClair from Sustainable CT to let her know that both towns are ready to go.

Walton reported on the town's progress with the Solar Municipal Assistance Program (MAP). The Town Manager, Director of Finance, Director of Maintenance and Walton reviewed the program with Green Bank and CSW Energy in December. The Town Manager, Director of Finance and Director of Maintenance approved proceeding with the program. The Director of Maintenance has arranged an on-site visit with CSW Energy of all municipal buildings with potential for rooftop PV installations. Once the locations in Town are determined, the installations will be bundled with other participating municipalities and go to ZREC auction. The Sustainability Committee offered its help, if needed, with the process.

Everett reported that for the first new school building "charrette", architectural firm TSKP Studio provided an introduction on how to create a net zero energy school. Charrettes with different focuses are planned.

On December 12, 2019 Walton made a presentation to the Board of Education about working toward zero waste for the school district. The Board chair stated their support for that goal. Walton and Superintendent of Schools, Kelly Lyman, have since discussed next steps.

Town Council will be considering the pollinator resolution at its January 27, 2020 meeting. Stoddard will be available to speak on behalf of the Sustainability Committee. Walton will contact Stoddard prior to the meeting to go over talking points.

Mansfield is be one of the towns that UConn students can select as a spring semester project on climate action. Julianna Barrett, former Climate Action Task Force member and current Associate Extension Educator for CT Sea Grant, will supervise the student as they put together resources on climate change that are applicable to the town and have been prioritized by the Task Force and Mansfield Tomorrow Plan.

The Committee began working on the equity worksheet, *Whose voice is heard in our work?*, by examining the town's demographics. Of particular note, the town is highly educated with a majority of residents between the age of 15 to 24 years and has a higher poverty rate than the State average. Members discussed the need to engage student and working young adults, and connect with residents living in multi-family housing. The Committee will continue with the worksheet at a future meeting.

Town Council adopted the Community Choice Aggregation resolution at their December 9, 2019 meeting. The purpose of the resolution is to send a signal to the State of Connecticut to pass enabling legislation that allows communities to adopt their own community choice energy ordinance.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton