

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 11, 2020

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Peter Millman, Susannah Everett, Jeff Brown (TSKP Studio), Scott Pellman (Colliers International), Randy Walikonis (School Building Committee), Chris Kueffner (School Building Committee), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by chairperson Stoddard.

Introductions were made.

Approval of the February 12, 2020 minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Walton reported that representatives from Mansfield, Windham, the Green Bank and the solar installer, PosiGen, are proposing an April 9 Solar for All kickoff event, intended for key town staff and agencies who work with low- and moderate-income homeowners. Members weren't sure if April 9, under the circumstances, is a good time to begin a four-month campaign that would include a series of solar workshops. Walton will bring this back to the Solar for All team. Walton will find out if there are funds to produce lawn signs.

Randy Walikonis, School Building Committee chair, began with the progress that is being made on the new elementary school building. The State of Connecticut is using Mansfield's project as a model to establish reimbursement calculations for future net zero energy schools. Stoddard asked that as the design team works with the State, they advocate for reimbursement calculations that include operating costs. After modelling eight different designs for energy intensity, TSKP Studio and CMTA have arrived at a building energy intensity goal of 20 EUI. One of the ways to achieve lower energy per square foot is to eliminate lengthy ductwork by scattering mechanical rooms throughout the building. Brown will send the committee the interactive energy data from the Discovery School in Arlington that CMTA engineered. The current building design has two stories for grades one through four. There will be approximately 60 to 70 geothermal wells located around the current playground area. Although the building will not be LEED certified, the team will be follow Connecticut's high performance school standards. Colliers International will be using IRN, a reuse network, to manage the school's old furniture. Rather than disposing the current school's furniture, it will be shipped overseas for reuse. Committee suggestions to the team – source local materials, deconstruct the existing building so that materials can be reused on-site or elsewhere, incorporate school composting into the design, provide EV charging stations or at least lay conduit for future installations, allow space in the design for a future battery bank. The new school is slated to be open fall 2022.

The committee reviewed two draft letters regarding the town's pollinator resolution - one for suppliers of plants and seeds and the other to UConn. Xerces Society has edited both. Members offered suggestions. Walton will make edits and work on mailing them out.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton