

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
Video Conference
June 10, 2020

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Peter Millman, Katie Fratoni, Susannah Everett, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 by chairperson Stoddard.

On a motion by Everett/Fratoni, the committee approved adding “school building deconstruction” to the agenda.

The minutes of February 12, 2020, March 11, 2020 and April 8, 2020 meetings were approved on a motion by Fratoni/Millman.

Everett reported that the architects are close to designing a net zero energy school building. As a follow up to the discussion of deconstructing Southeast Elementary School, Walton gathered information from Recycling Works out of Massachusetts. The information offers guidance for salvaging building materials for reuse and recycling. On a motion by Fratoni/Everett, Walton was directed to pass the deconstruction information to the School Building Committee, encouraging them to look into deconstruction as a viable option for Southeast Elementary School.

The Committee spent some time reflecting on the national events of the past two weeks. What is the responsibility of the Sustainability Committee to ensure accessibility and inclusion within the community? How can the Committee be more representative of the community? The committee will continue to explore opportunities to deepen community connections.

At 6:39 pm Everett left the meeting.

The Town Council approved proceeding with the Solar MAP proposal to install rooftop photovoltaic panels on the town hall and public works garage. The Town Manager signed the letter of intent, and the Green Bank will be bundling Mansfield’s proposal with other municipalities before it goes out to bid. The final proposal will be presented to the town after the ZREC auction later this year. The Town Manager mentioned that Titan Solutions, an energy broker with whom the Town contracts, having learned about the Solar MAP proposal stated that they could get a better deal for the town. Committee members requested that Titan Solutions put together a formal proposal of the same buildings to compare apples to apples. In the Solar MAP proposal there is no price escalation. Would a Titan proposal include an escalator cost? Staff was directed to provide Titan with the Solar MAP information.

Walton reported that Mansfield/Windham Solar for All will begin with an introductory webinar on June 24, 2020 at 12:30. Committee members will be invited to attend and are asked to get the word out about the campaign. Stoddard will check her availability to speak on behalf of the Sustainability Committee in the beginning of the webinar. The campaign will officially launch on June 29, 2020 with a homeowner webinar. Millman will send out information to Eastern CT Green Action and the Rotary Club. He will also search for the Lions Club contact.

Julianna Barrett’s students finished content for webpages devoted to climate change. The I.T. department is willing to create a new category on the webpages devoted to Sustainability, which will include the climate

change content, links to recycling webpages, energy information, etc. Walton will be working with other departments to develop these pages.

Stoddard reported that Sustainable CT will be offering a sustainable purchasing policy webinar during the summer. As discussed at the last meeting, employee training is essential for implementing a policy. Including training methods in the webinar would be helpful.

Walton has been viewing educational webinars focused on plastic pollution. The fossil fuel industry's goal is to double the amount of plastics produced in a short period of time and they are pushing hard. Industry has used the pandemic to roll back plastic bag bans. Ethane, a component of natural gas extraction lends itself to plastics production. There is an upcoming webinar about a Break Free from Plastic Pollution federal bill. Walton will send this information to committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton