

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes – Oct. 25th, 2023, at Elon Town Hall at 8:30 am

Present: Lori Oakley, Planning Director, Jenna Peterson, Planner, David Murphy, Asst. Public Works Director, Randy Orwig, Town Council Member, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, and Chloe Stuart, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Item A- Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Item B- Minutes

The minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting were presented. Pagano suggested postponing approval of the minutes to allow for time to review the minutes. The committee was in favor of postponing approval of the minutes until the next meeting (3-0).

Item C- Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item D- Old Business

Item D-i- Discuss energy audit

Pagano asked the committee if the energy audit is something that they want to do? Then, the committee identified the next steps as determining the scope, finding out who can do the audit, and what the cost would be. Orwig asked what the directional payoff would be for the town to spend money on an energy audit. Orwig suggested including the purpose with the scope. The economic incentive/savings could be one of the motivating factors for the town to invest in an energy audit. Shaw stated the scope should be the town and anything that's public, like lights, buildings, etc.

Orwig asked who would conduct the audit? Is this a consultant or contractor or would it be internal? Other businesses have hired someone to walk through buildings to look at vents, windows, materials, etc. Pagano mentioned a broader project that identifies each buildings' output or usage. At this point, the town might not benefit from such a specific audit. Orwig asked if the audit would be more of a statistical study? Pagano stated Elon University has a statistical study that provides monthly updates. Shaw asked if the committee is thinking of an audit that provides monthly updates? The committee mentioned other questions, like who would do a statistical audit? Would energy companies, like Duke, show fuel consumption.

Pagano requested that committee members scope out what they think for the energy audit and list what they think the steps might be.

Shaw motioned to proceed with the energy audit, Stuart seconded the motion. All in favor (3-0).

Item D-ii- Update on Twin Lakes project from Elon University students

In the past, senior seminars have come up with ideas that include Electric Vehicles (EVs) and charging stations, using electrical tools/equipment, native pollinator gardens, recycling and education, composting, etc. These are ideas the town might be able to implement. Orwig mentioned collective composting and the potential to have a commercial composting service the town could offer in the future. Orwig asked if some of the students in the senior seminar would consider working with the

town for their project. Stuart states that one project is with the Town of Hillsborough so Elon might be able to reach out to Elon University to have the town be a project in the future.

Item D-iii- Educational opportunities for the committee

Ideas for educational opportunities included a workshop, a blurb of resident’s experiences in the newsletter, and social media posts. Shaw stated the committee should find communities within a community to share ideas because there is already a sense of trust within smaller communities. Murphy suggested HOA’s. Different populations and demographics can also be used to identify communities with the Elon community.

Stuart suggested collaboration with Elon University environmental education and teacher education programs. Students in these programs might be willing to help. The town could also reach out to the outdoor leadership program, the environmental education program, and sustainable volunteers.

Orwig mentioned scouts’ groups and kids’ extracurricular activities where parents might be around to hear and/or where kids can learn and then bring the information back to their parents.

Item E- New Business

Item E-i- Review draft of Sustainability Coordinator position

The committee is supportive of the position. Orwig would like flexibility to negotiate the position’s responsibilities. Stuart suggested including energy audit responsibilities into the position’s description. Orwig said this would be introducing sustainability to the town’s infrastructure.

Item E-ii- Establish timelines/benchmarks for committee goals/projects


The committee decided to discuss this item at the next meeting since the committee is still identifying goals and projects. It is not ready to create a timeline.

Item F- Other items and updates from Planning Director


Oakley informed the committee that Styrofoam recycling requires the Town to find trailers and locations for the trailers to be parked.

Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pagano adjourned the meeting at 9:37am.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chair Dennis Pagano

4/24/2024
Date


Interim Recording Secretary, Lori Oakley, on behalf of
Recording Secretary, Jenna Peterson

4-24-24
Date