

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes - February 22nd, 2023, at Elon Town Hall at 8:30 am

Present: Lori Oakley, Planning Director, Mary Kathryn Harward, Planner, David Murphy, Asst. Public Works Director, Randy Orwig, Town Council Liaison, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, Lamont Tyson, and Emerson Wells, committee members.

Planning Director Oakley opened the meeting with an introduction and description of the committee. Director Oakley then opened the floor for introductions. Pagano, Shaw, Tyson, and Wells all introduced themselves, explained their work and education background, and why they are each interested in community sustainability in general.

Oakley then proceeded with having the committee elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary. Dennis Pagano was selected to be the Chair, Lamont Tyson as Vice Chair, and Mary Kathryn Harward, Planner, filling the role of secretary. It was stated that the secretary would draft the agenda and draft minutes for each meeting. When topics needed to be brought before the Town Council, Oakley would act as staff liaison to the Council and the Chair or Vice Chair would attend the council meeting to answer questions if needed. Oakley asked for the consensus of the voting members, and all were in favor of the elections.

Council Member Orwig then proposed a monthly meeting schedule, with extra meetings as needed and the group was in agreement. The process for adopting bylaws was then established, with the Committee secretary drafting the bylaws and the Committee voting them into substance.

The committee members then agreed that the 4 members of the public in the committee would be the only voting members. Harward stated that she would check on the allowable voting members and the allowable term limits for membership and report back at the next meeting.


The discussion then turned to topics that members wanted the committee to be aware of focus on in their future endeavors. Orwig brought up the recycling of Styrofoam and how it is handled within Elon, stating that the Elon Community Church has a Styrofoam collection trailer that they take to Greensboro, and they are hoping to place more trailers in the community in the future. Wells stated that she would check with the University to see how they recycle their Styrofoam.

Harward related information about the 2022 DEACS Community Waster Reduction and recycling grant program that the town had acquired funding through, and that recycling education materials would be distributed throughout the community Summer of 2023. Tyson suggested that the committee make 3- or 4- minute education videos that shows what can and cannot be recycled, to be distributed virtually to the community through YouTube and the Town's social media accounts.

Other topics of interest that were mentioned were food waste management within the Town entity and University, making economic suggestions to the council, and buying local through the Elon Farmers Market to support the community. Goals for the next meeting were established, including speaking to the Town Council about their Sustainability framework, defining our purpose and Sustainability as a committee, and grant writing endeavors.

March 22nd, 2023 was established as the next committee meeting date.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chair Dennis Pagano

4/24/2024

Date



Interim Recording Secretary, Lori Oakley, on behalf of
Recording Secretary, Mary Kathryn Harward

4-24-24

Date