

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2024, at Elon Town Hall at 8:30 am

Present: Lori Oakley, Planning Director, Randy Orwig, Town Council Member, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, Lamont Tyson, and Kelly Harer, 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

There were no minutes to be approved.

Item C- Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item D- Old Business

1. Energy Audit

Pagano reviewed the handouts of the energy data that was compiled by Shaw. Shaw explained that the kW hours were based off electrical usage. There was no natural gas utilized per Duke. Fire, water and sewer accounts were consolidated. Shaw grouped all of the fire accounts together and all of the water and sewer accounts together.

Orwig noticed the drop in energy usage in the summer months in water and sewer.

Shaw pointed out that Elon's two fire departments use twice the daily energy that Hillsborough's two fire departments use when you review the data over the entire year. Hillsborough's data is a few years old since it was contained in their energy audit, however, it is still worth noting the differences in the two. Elon used 130,108 kW's and Hillsborough used 75,000 kW's.

Orwig pointed out that the committee was creating a baseline of data over the past year and questioned how future assessment would work. Shaw explained that you have to go into each of the separate Duke accounts to extract the data. He exported all the data into a spreadsheet with different tabs for each account. Pagano pointed out the 34 different tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet for each account.

Harer stated that Elon University does yearly assessments. Oakley stated that her new planner that is starting soon could capture the new data and add it to the spreadsheet each month so we can keep the data up to date.

Pagano wondered about the new downtown plaza and if the town could start converting the streetlights to LED. If that was done, we can then see a measurable difference.

Orwig mentioned that at the most recent Council retreat, the police cruisers were mentioned. There are no electric police cruisers available, and the hybrids are on back-order and would take several years to acquire.

Shaw cautioned the committee members not to make inferences from the data.

Pagano stated that the committee needs to explore funding sources for a more detailed audit and asked if anyone knew of sources that would help to obtain a more detailed analysis.

Orwig stated that we need a building-to-building comparison. For example, an in-depth comparison could look at the insulation levels in each building and what impact that has on energy consumption. He then asked when the committee was prepared to present this information to the Council.

Pagano stated that it needs to go to the Council and Shaw asked what specific data should be presented to them. Tyson suggested presenting the data that was gathered thus far and the comparison to Hillsborough. Shaw stated that we needed to carefully present the data since we would not want it to be interpreted incorrectly. Harer also suggested depicting a compilation of all of the data. Shaw stated that he had a total rate compiled; however, it did not appear on the spreadsheet that was printed. Harer suggested a pie chart.

Pagano stated that we need to document how this data was collected and documented so we can have a detailed process for anyone doing the data collection in the future. Shaw stated that only one person has access to the data in the Town's Finance Department. It might be difficult to document a step-by-step process because it is going to be very tedious and involves several steps. There are also 4 accounts that have no data associated with them.

Pagano stated that it appears that Elon spends 75k a year on electricity. Shaw questioned if perhaps usage consumption could be reduced if the town added solar facilities. Perhaps a one-acre solar farm could save the town quite a bit of money. The town could also get a check back for any energy that is not used.

Harer stated that perhaps we could get ideas from current business owners. She also stated that she would follow up on grant funding sources. Pagano asked Oakley if there were any updates from PTRC and she said no.

Tyson asked what the committee would specifically ask for from the Council and Oakley stated that funds are needed to have a true energy audit performed. The committee will have already provided the baseline data. Harer agreed that the town needs an energy audit performed.

Pagano asked if we needed older data as well for comparison and there was a discussion about retrieving older energy data for the town.

Item E- New Business

There was no new business discussed.

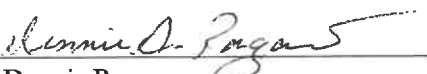
Item F- Other items and updates from Planning Director

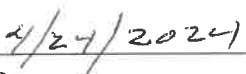
In the interest of time, there were no updates from Oakley.

Item G- Adjournment


Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tyson seconded the motion. Pagano adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chair Dennis Pagano


Date


Interim Recording Secretary, Lori Oakley


Date