

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes - March 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, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, and Lamont Tyson, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Chair Pagano called the meeting to order and the proposed adoption of the February 22nd, 2023 minutes. It was questioned if Council Member Orwig as the Town Council Liaison would act to answer council's questions at public meetings, and Oakley responded that his primary role is to relay updates. If the Sustainability Committee is presenting to the Council, it would be one of the members. It was also clarified that the chair would not automatically need to attend all council meetings. Other grammatical errors were addressed. Shaw motioned to approve the minutes, with Tyson seconding the motion, all were in favor (3-0).

Oakley then gave updates on the issue of Styrofoam recycling. Recycling representatives had wanted to talk about the trailer in the community parking lot, and the process by which Styrofoam is recycled was explained in more detail. It was revealed that the University was unclear if they could participate because they do not have the room for trailers, but the idea of having a temporary trailer that would be taken off site was proposed. It was then stated that the town is looking to put a trailer on West Lebanon. Shaw mentioned the recycling opportunity when it was time to dispose of all the packing material and Styrofoam that is accumulated over the university move-in weeks. Murphy also mentioned community shred events and hazardous waste disposal events that occur in May and October. The county holds the events twice a year and the town co-sponsors the events with the county once a year.

Oakley then addressed the term lengths for committee members. It was agreed that there would be two 2-year terms and two 3-year terms, with the opportunity to reapply once terms were expired. Pagano suggested that there always be a student or University representative, and Oakley agreed and said that involvement of a student or University Representative could be advertised and encouraged. It was agreed that Emerson Wells and Adam Shaw would have the 2-year terms, with Dennis Pagano and Lamont Tyson having the 3-year terms.

The discussion was then turned to review of Bylaws for the committee. Pagano posed questions to the group that involved clarifying the purpose of the group, brainstorming good ideas to pursue funding, and grant writing. Oakley responded to Pagano that the purpose would be to primarily brainstorm ideas for projects, and that there is currently no line item for committee spending in the budget. To fund projects, Oakley would present budget items to the Council and then request "x" number of fundings from the general fund. Shaw questioned if funds could be used to do research for Sustainability ideas, and Tyson suggested that if funding is available, ideas and projects would be less likely to be stifled. Oakley stated that the research for funds falls on staff, and Harward (secretary) would act as the grant writer for the committee. Shaw questioned if proposed ideas needed to be voted on for approval at any given meeting, and Oakley responded no because the committee is not bound by state statute.

Edits to the bylaws were then voted on. Shaw made a motion to accept bylaw edits, Tyson seconded the motion, and all were in favor (3-0).

Goals and objectives of the group were then discussed. The group looked at Davidson County's sustainability framework table for ideas. Pagano stated that he would prefer to have Wells and Orwig present before any decisions were made on group goals and objectives. He also questioned if the University had previously put together their own goals and set of projects they were doing that could potentially be used as a blueprint. Oakley stated that she would send out an email to ask for a University "blueprint". Oakley also read out loud the University's definition of sustainability that Wells had emailed in her absence. Pagano also offered the knowledge that the University is looking to become carbon neutral.


Other areas of community focus were also brought forth by group members that included school outreach and education, engaging with kids to teach simple sustainability practices, raising awareness on Elon campus, Town code landscaping restrictions to restrict pesticide usage, and looking at landscaping guidance for Town carbon neutrality goals. Oakley stated that an official list of goals and objectives and projects could be discussed at the next meeting on April 26th, 2023. It was proposed that meetings be held the 4th Wednesday of every month as part of the committee 2023 calendar. Shaw made a motion to approve the calendar, Tyson seconded the motion, and all were in favor (3-0).

Oakley then gave some town-related updates to the committee. April 20th is the date that the Town Farmers Market will be starting, and the Town has taken over management of market operations. The Town's Multimodal Steering Committee will be meeting for the first time two weeks from today's meeting date. The LMO is still in the works and is slated to be completed in its first draft form within the next few months.

Motion to adjourn was proposed at 9:39 am by Adam Shaw, seconded by Lamont Tyson, and all were in favor (3-0).

April 26th, 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