

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes – May 24th, 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 Member, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, and Lamont Tyson, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

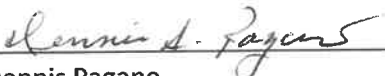
Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 8:33am. The first item discussed was new business. Jill Weston, Downtown Development Director, presented a conceptual map of planned downtown development and a future layout. Weston described the changes as widening sidewalks along Williamson Ave by 8 feet, removing parking on the west side of Williamson Ave, adding the plaza to the north of Pandora’s Pies, and a potential covered “market hall”.

After Mrs. Weston’s presentation, Mr. Shaw had a concern to bring to the group about short-term rentals (specifically Airbnbs). As Greensboro has recently addressed Airbnbs within their jurisdiction, it was said that Elon should address it out of concerns for rising cost of living.


Old business was then addressed. Oakley led the group through revising the Committee’s Sustainability framework. All committee members agreed that the Davidson’s Sustainability framework provided a good starting point for pinpointing what Elon’s definition of Sustainability is, and what it looks like for different groups in the community. Shaw stated that as a Town, we would need to set an ambitious goal for when the Town would want to be 100% sustainable, and/or carbon neutral. Pagano said that being a town that is aimed towards carbon neutrality could entice people to move here and invest in the Town. Orwig stated the Town Council knows that new developments are needed for growth and progress but doesn’t necessarily know what sustainable development looks like. He suggested that the Council be given guidance and information about sustainable development and affordable housing. Shaw questioned if the people making land development decisions could be trained in sustainability and carbon neutrality, and Tyson questioned if the committee needs to talk to developers in terms of regulations and encouragement.

Orwig questioned if committee members had to be Elon residents, and Oakley stated that they did not.

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:35am.


Chair Dennis Pagano

4/24/2024
Date


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

4-24-24
Date