

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes – July 26th, 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, and Adam Shaw, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 8:32am. The first items discussed were that there was a student who applied for the vacant position on the Committee, the potential for new candidates, and the requirements to serve on the Committee. Then the minutes were approved by the chair.

Orwig expressed interest in expanding the board to include someone from Elon University, as well as other residents, business owners, or interested parties.

There were no public comments.

Old business was then addressed. Oakley led the group through revising the Committee's Sustainability Framework. Pagano started by discussing the priority areas. He noted that project management is important to set short term and long-term goals so that we can stage things and as they are accomplished, they can lead into future goals or line items. Pagano also discussed the need for creating partnerships with town businesspeople and Orwig agreed with Pagano. Orwig also stated that work comes from witness and example and mentioned the need for the Town infrastructure to become sustainable, to set a goal for a time to be sustainable, and to make the Town's role in sustainable as the first item on the priority area. The committee agreed with moving the Town's role to number one. Under the educate and engage priority, Shaw wanted to clarify the sustainable partnerships action item. The next priority discussed was foster green-building concepts. There is concern for how much influence the town has for encouraging green-building concepts. Ideas that were suggested included exploring state options, partnering with the county, and having the town set the standard. Shaw suggested a three- or four-point framework like encourage, enable, educate, etc.

The committee also discussed local transportation mobility. This included the Town's parking plan, multimodal plans, and the idea of accessing Elon University's bus system. Improving the Town's transportation system so it is safe and effective can help attract future residents and businesses to the town.

The committee suggested creating a new position to help with the Town's sustainability goals, like a sustainability director/grant writer. The committee also discussed conducting a clean energy audit. Shaw mentions whether a weatherization audit was typically included in an energy audit or not.

The last item of discussion was the timeline and goals that the committee wants to make. A meeting was scheduled with Elon University's Office of Sustainability for Thursday, July 27, 2023. The committee agreed that we should set a goal at the next meeting, after we learn about how Elon University created their timeline and goals.

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Pagano
Chair Dennis Pagano

9/27/2023
Date

Jenna Peterson
Recording Secretary, Jenna Peterson

9/27/2023
Date