

Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes – Aug. 23rd, 2023, at Elon Town Hall at 8:30 am

Present: Jenna Peterson, Planner, David Murphy, Asst. Public Works Director, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, Chloe Stewart, and Lamont Tyson, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 8:30am. The new student representative, Chloe Stewart, briefly introduced herself. Then the minutes were approved by the chair.

There were no public comments.

Old business was then addressed. Pagano summarized the framework and stated the purpose is to have something on paper to establish early activities and securing funding sources. The Town's role was moved to the top of the framework per request by the committee members. The committee agreed that the framework does not have a hierarchy, so they are happy with the framework order. Shaw suggested tiered goals of carbon neutrality.

The Committee discussed the importance of an energy audit to establish a baseline. Shaw mentioned an economic standpoint to sustainability. For example, members of the community can be pushed out of locations or residences because the homes might cost more. Shaw explained that more cost friendly residences might be located farther from resources. Because of this, community members might need to rely on the bus system more. Shaw asked if the committee wanted to include an economic piece in the framework. Pagano added that habitat housing is another resource that can support the economic component. Pagano provided an example from Northampton, MA, where local law for new construction requires homes to have the ability to be electric. While this is not possible under NC law, it might be possible to estimate cost savings to developers and residents. It's another way to connect back to Shaw's statement about economics being a useful tool.

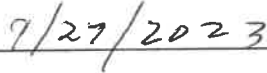
The next topic is establishing an outdate. The suggestion is 2050 for the town. The committee raised concern about projecting a timeline without knowing where we are, which led discussion back to an energy audit. Pagano suggested looking into measures like the number of LINK riders to see if alternative transportation methods are increasing.

The committee discussed big action items like creating a director position, conducting an energy audit, and engaging businesses. Tyson mentioned the Town Council's focus to keep Elon students here after graduating. Tyson stated that some of these projects and improving the Town's sustainability might help the Town's goal.

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chair Dennis Pagano


Date

Jenna Peterson
Recording Secretary, Jenna Peterson

9/27/2023
Date