



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting- December 5th, 2024

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, at 4:30 pm. in the Public Services Training Room located at 129 Legion Drive Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

William Hite (Chair)
Case Brown (alternate)
Paul Carlson
Besty Wall
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)
Aparna Keshaviah
David Henderson
Mary Kayler
Price Berryhill
Kay Kirkman
Buffy Queen
Kipp Sutton

Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

B. APPROVAL OF 11/7/2024 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Conway, seconded by Board Member Wall, to approve the minutes from the November 7th, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. NEW MEMBER WELCOME: KIPP SUTTON

Chairman Hite welcomed Kipp Sutton to the ESB. Board members introduced themselves.

D. C-LEAP SOW UPDATES

Board Member Keshaviah reported no updates.

E. C-LEAP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Member Wall reported that they are planning on meeting with other community members to learn about how Helene impacted them- Pigeon Multicultural Community Development Center, Lake Junaluska, Haywood Christian Ministries, and David Francis/Haywood Chamber of Commerce. She said that Hayley with NREL suggested meeting in February. Board Member Keshaviah said that the LEAP community lead clarified that NREL technical assistance providers would share content to include on a website for the community, but they would not help build the website. The funds given to the town through LEAP could be used to hire someone to build and manage the website.

F. URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT: WCU AND TOW

Board Member Kirkman reported that she attended the capstone project presentation for the Environmental Science program at WCU and their topic was increasing the tree canopy in Waynesville. She said they did some tree inventory work and biodiversity assessments in town parks. She said they encouraged changes to the town tree ordinance and to identify someone to be responsible for overseeing tree maintenance. Board Member Henderson said that there were three students interested in pursuing independent study next semester to continue and refine the proposed project.

G. NCFS GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY, JANUARY 2025

Board Member Carlson said that there's currently no tracking method beyond one year for trees that are required to be planted in new developments. Ms. Grasty said that years ago, the town would follow up with developments and businesses about trees they planted and eventually died, and requiring them to re-plant. She said as the town has grown, staff has not been able to follow up with said businesses and developments. Chairman Hite suggested reaching out to the Recreation Advisory Commission to plan a joint meeting to discuss tree inventory and plantings.

H. PV AND EV CHARGING SITE ASSESSMENT, 12/9/2024

Chairman Hite said that they will visit the Rec Center, Public Works, and the parking deck downtown on Monday to assess the buildings and electrical panels for solar and installing more EV chargers.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Hite said the state energy conference is April 29th and 30th next year.

There was discussion about Ms. Grasty's retirement and what her position would look like after she retires.

J. ADJOURN

William Hite adjourned the meeting at 6:03pm.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk