



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting

December 7th, 2023

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 7th, 2023, at 4:30 pm. in the Municipal Building Conference Room located at 16 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

William Hite (Chair)
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)
Chuck Dickson
Kay Kirkman
Michael Boss
Mary Kayler
David Henderson
Aparna Keshaviah
Case Brown (alternate)
Keith Ray
Betsy Wall

Members Absent:

Paul Carlson
Buffy Queen

Staff members present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

B. APPROVAL OF 11/16/2023

A motion was made by Board Member David Henderson, seconded by Vice Chair Reid Conway, to approve the November 16th, 2023 and November 2nd, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. VISION AND MISSION DISCUSSION

Assistant Town Manager Jesse Fowler presented the Mission and Vision worksheet compilation. He also presented another worksheet for members and stated that the purpose of the worksheet is to focus the broad ideas and to give a “how” and “what” to their goals.

D. LEAP GRANT DISCUSSION

Board Member Aparna Keshaviah presented the rough draft of the LEAP grant, which is due on December 14th. Chairman William Hite said that he will get a letter of support from the Environmental Action Committee. Town Manager Rob Hites said he would draft a letter of support for David Francis to sign on behalf of Haywood County. Board Member Chuck Dickson mentioned reaching out to Southwestern Commission for support as well. There was discussion about setting up a lower electric rate for citizens with low income. Manager Hites explained that it is very challenging to set a “low-income” electric rate. Board Member Keith Ray suggested allowing lower-income citizens to pull from solar energy sources which would lower their electric bill. Mr. Hites said he would have to discuss with an attorney to see if that’s doable. Chairman Hite asked about the “Share the Warmth” program that Duke has and if the Town could do something similar.

E. LAND OF SKY EV READINESS WORKSHOP

Chairman Hite reported that Land of Sky is interested in conducting a workshop the second week of January. He said the goal of the workshop is to coordinate an NFPA community readiness program for electric vehicles. He said they would like to have attendance from public safety and fire as well as utility and public works from Waynesville. Chairman Hite said their intent of the program is to have an NFPA trainer do a one-hour seminar on community readiness for EVs, and then to do a one-hour facilitated conversation amongst the attendees to hopefully lead to a community-wide plan for future transportation needs and wants in Waynesville (essentially get Towns ready for EV charging). Mr. Hites suggested holding the workshop in the Public Services training room.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

Board Member Chuck Dickson asked if the ESB would consider breaking into committees to focus on specific things. Board Member Betsy Wall said the ESB needs to do their long-term plan, and that should help the ESB formulate a plan and give guidance to formulating sub-committees. Chairman Hite said suggested the ESB holds a retreat to do some long-term planning.

There was discussion about police vehicles eventually being electric. Some of the concerns noted were expense and repair of vehicles, as well as where the vehicles would be charged.

Board Member Kay Kirkman reminded the Board to think of questions for Elizabeth Teague for the next meeting.

Board Member Case Brown mentioned cityrenewables.org was active and can be used to look for funding opportunities.

G. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chairman William Hite, seconded by Board Member Betsy Wall, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Board will be held on Thursday, January 4th at 4:30pm, located in the Municipal Conference Room at 16 S. Main Street, Waynesville.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk