



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting

October 21st, 2024

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 21st, 2024, at 4:30 pm. in the Recreation Center located at 550 Vance Street Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

Buffy Queen
Chuck Dickson

Staff Members Present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:40pm.

B. APPROVAL OF 8/15/2024 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Board Member Kirkman, seconded by Vice Chair Conway, to approve the minutes from the August 15th, 2024 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. DISCUSSION OF TOWN'S RESPONSE TO HELENE FLOODING: OPPORTUNITIES FOR MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, AND PRIORITIZATION OF OUR EFFORTS

The Board shared their individual statuses following Helene. Town Manager Rob Hites said that overall, the Town of Waynesville fared well. He added that there is about \$965,000 worth of

damage to the Sewer Treatment plant and \$500,000 worth of damage to the Depot Street bridge that may take several months to repair. There was discussion about building codes and possibly changing the town's requirements to have a taller foundation to help mitigate flood damage in the future.

D. INTERFACING WITH PLANNING BOARD AND REC CENTER LEADERSHIP

Chairman Hite requested that the Board thinks about how they can use their expertise to assist the Planning and Recreation Department in rebuilding. Mr. Hites suggested they meet with the Recreation Advisory Commission to discuss moving some of their infrastructure out of the floodplain.

E. INVITING EXPERTS TO REFLECT ON FLOOD MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION EFFORTS: HAYWOOD WATERWAYS, LAND OF SKY, AND GREENBUILT ALLIANCE

Board Member Wall reported that 9 to 10 organizations attended the NREL community meeting. She said there were a couple of organizations that were mentioned in the grant application that did not attend, so she recommended a follow up meeting with them. Board Member Wall said the post-meeting evaluation forms showed there is still a deficit in understanding about what's being proposed and what's most valuable to the town.

Chairman Hite recommended discussing the capacity for working with community partners in another three weeks or so.

F. C-LEAP SOW REVISIONS AND DISCUSSION

Board Member Keshaviah reported that the revisions and discussion were in line with what the ESB wants as a whole.

G. UPDATES ON ONGOING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Board Member Kirkman reported that the forest service grant was denied before going to review. She said there was a pre-requisite that the town had to have a tree inventory before applying. Board Member Brown reported that the EPA grant should be submitted within the next couple of weeks. Chairman Hite said there are still monies in the Volkswagen grant program and the application is due January 2025.

H. TEAM BREAKOUT SESSIONS: PLANNING AND END OF YEAR ACTION ITEMS

The ESB broke out into their strategic focal groups-Energy, Urban Ecology, and Electric Transportation.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

J. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Board Member Henderson, seconded by Board Member Berryhill, to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

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