



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting

June 20th, 2024

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 21st, 2024, at 4:30 pm. in the Municipal Building Conference Room located at 16 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

Members present:

William Hite (Chair)
Aparna Keshaviah
Case Brown (alternate)
Paul Carlson
Kay Kirkman
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)
Chuck Dickson
David Henderson

Members Absent:

Mary Kayler
Betsy Wall
Buffy Queen

Staff members present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. He said that Keith Ray has resigned from the ESB.

B. APPROVAL OF 6/6/2024 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Conway, seconded by Board Member Carlson, to approve the minutes from the June 6th, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

C. EVA WEBINAR REVIEW AND BRAINSTORMING

Chairman Hite said as they should think about charging opportunities for the town and making the information more accessible for local businesses.

D. URBAN ECOLOGY TREE INVENTORY AND CANOPY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Board Member Kirkman reported that Board Members Henderson and Carlson spoke with Justin Bennet of the NC Forest Service to learn more about their program opportunities. She said he will be in town next week so they can show him around. Board Member Kirkman said that Mr. Bennet said they will cover tree inventory and help communities develop a standard in terms of maintenance needs.

Board Member Carlson mentioned that there may be an opportunity to have a professional trim the trees around power line right of ways so that it benefits the tree. Vice Chair Conway discussed the logistics and challenges of keeping the right of way clear of trees.

E. COMMUNITIES LEAP 6/20 MEETING UPDATE

Board Member Keshaviah said the needs assessment is happening currently and over the next couple of months, then a scope of work will be developed. She said the site visit will be July 17th 10am to 2pm. She requested that Mr. Hites share the town map that shows where our power lines are and the energy contract and cumulative sum of what the town has spent on energy. Vice Chair Conway explained the difference between demand and kilowatt hours and coincidental peaks.

F. EPA GREENWAY GRANT UPDATE

Board Member Carlson said the Conservancy is taking the lead and incorporating floodplain management along the Pigeon River.

G. PROMOTING SOLAR IN WAYNESVILLE ELECTRIC UTILITY DISTRICT: REVIEW OF CURRENT SOLAR TARIFF, GRID-TIE IN RULES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO INCREASED SOLAR ADOPTION

Chairman Hite said he will share information in the share drive about net metering, commercial rates, and residential rates.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Hite reminded the ESB that there are two vacancies on the Board. Board Member Brown recommended Hylah Birenbaum, the HCC Executive Director of the College's Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Board will be held on Thursday, July 18th at 4:30pm, located at 16 S. Main Street.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk