



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Regular Meeting

June 6th, 2024

The Waynesville Environmental Sustainability Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 16th, 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
Buffy Queen
Betsy Wall
Reid Conway (Vice Chair)
Chuck Dickson
Mary Kayler
David Henderson

Members Absent:

Keith Ray

Staff members present:

Julie Grasty, Asset Services Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman William Hite called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

B. APPROVAL OF 4/18/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Kirkman stated that she wanted the minutes to say that she has not spoken to Haywood Waterways about applying for the NC Forest Service grant program and will not in the future. She said she wanted it struck from the minutes. There was a request for brevity of the minutes.

A motion was made by Board Member Henderson, seconded by Board Member Conway, to approve the minutes from the April 18th, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNITIES LEAP LAUNCH AND TEAM DISCUSSION

Board Member Keshaviah reported that she had a meeting with Rory McIlmoil. She said that the first 4 to 6 months of project will be a needs assessment, then they will agree on the scope of work. She said she would like to schedule a site visit with NREL soon. Chairman Hite suggested the week after Independence Day. He suggested cancelling the July 4th ESB meeting.

D. BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Chairman Hite said that Keith will be rolling off of the ESB, so they will have two vacancies. He suggested recruiting someone that has solar experience.

Board Member Dickson added that the town has approved a survey of utility poles and streetlights.

Ms. Grasty said they are still waiting for a solar quote from Waste Reduction Partners.

E. URBAN ECOLOGY TREE INVENTORY AND CANOPY ASSESMENT UPDATE

Board Member Kirkman said she has talked to the NC State Forestry group and the director of the urban forestry program. She said he suggested that they prioritize funding in town limits, and they would require a 50/50 match. Board Member Henderson said he met with Sarah Parson at WCU to discuss having a class help with the tree assessment.

F. EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Board Member Carlson said that Sothern Appalachian Highland Conservancy could assist with supporting the grant writing effort for greenway infrastructure needs. Board Member Dickson suggested reaching out to the TDA for grant opportunities.

G. TYING IT TOGETHER: WRP REPORTS, SOLAR ESTIMATES, AND USDA FUNDING STREAMS

Chairman Hite said he'd like to get the partner reports and solar estimate before the site visit. The ESB broke into their work sessions.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Hite said there is a Community Charging grant opportunity, with the grant being due August 28th.

The ESB discussed a date for the site visit for the LEAP grant being either July 9th or 10th, most likely 10am to 2pm.

Chairman Hite adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Board will be held on Thursday, June 20th at 4:30pm, located at 16 S. Main Street.

ATTEST:

William Hite, Board Chair

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk