

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Pat Peckham, Mary Kluz, Claire Meney, Benjamin Lee, Paul Zouski

Others Present: Mayor Mielke, Nancy Turyk, Andrew Shannon, Adam Snippen, Christine Martens

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and introductions

Meney called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approval of the minutes of September 25, 2019 meeting

Motion by Kluz/Meney to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on selecting a new committee chairperson

Motion by Peckham/Kluz to nominate Meney as chair of the committee. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion on solar energy in central Wisconsin

Nancy Turyk from UW – Extension Wood County made a presentation about energy efficiency and solar energy in central Wisconsin. Turyk overviewed the energy plan and recent projects in Wood County.

The committee discussed action steps and ideas from the presentation. Meney said she liked the idea of having a short action plan as a working item. Peckham suggested having Nick from MREA come to the committee to talk about MREA and invite folks from the surrounding communities to participate in the discussion.

Discussion on draft zoning code

Sippel said that the City is currently working on a repeal and replace of the 1960's zoning code, and has been in this process for about 18 months. Sippel overviewed components of the draft zoning code that relate to the charges of the committee and how some of those components are different than the current zoning code. Sippel said if there is any feedback on the draft language we can look into making changes and incorporate it into the comments on the zoning code.

Kluz asked if there is anything prohibiting residents from selling produce at a small scale. Sippel said he does not believe so but will look into it. Kluz said she hopes there is not anything that would make it difficult for CSAs to have pickup spots in the City. Martens asked if taller plants will be allowed in the code. Sippel said there are vision clearance triangle requirements at driveways, alleys, and streets, but otherwise landscaping is expressly allowed in the setback areas without height limitations.

Kluz said it seems like the new code is moving in the right direction.

Discussion and possible action on sustainability recognition program

Lee will present some findings at the next meeting.

Update on Sustainability Cities Conference

Peckham shared stories, lessons learned, and interesting facts from the Sustainable Cities Conference.

Updates on previous items

Peckham asked about the demand-based rates for meters such as water pumps filling the water tower. Sippel said that Pergolski said we get time of day rates for some of our meters, and they work with WPS to make sure we are using the energy during off-peak times where possible, but with around 200 meters does not have information about which meters are tied to the types of water pumps that were asked about. Pergolski suggested to Sippel and Peckham by email that the next step might be to meet with WPS to determine which meters are using time of use rates and if there are any opportunities for shifting to off-peak use that have been missed. Snippen said that the Water and Wastewater utility should be on a SCATA system that gives electricity use data at 15 minute intervals and those utilities should be able to access that data.

Future items for consideration

Lee asked if the committee could have an update on the Green Tier Community status at the next meeting. A discussion on the sustainability recognition program should be in the next agenda.

Lee left at 5:44.

The committee discussed reaching out to the Aspirus Sustainability Committee. The committee discussed taking a trip to Church Mutual in Merrill to learn about their solar energy system.

The committee discussed setting times for agenda items on future agendas. Meney offered to help set expected discussion times for agenda items.

Future meeting date

November 26 is the next regularly scheduled meeting, however that is the Wednesday before the Thanksgiving holiday. The committee discussed the meeting date and decided to hold the next meeting on November 20.

Adjourn

Motion by Peckham/Meney to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.