



# **Sustainability Oversight Committee**

Secretary – Mike Guyon

## **Sustainability Oversight Committee May 1, 2017**

### **Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Ron Wexler, Paul Tankel, Erinn Ryen, Steve Kittelberger, Shubhangi Gandhi, Margy Peet, Mitch Nellis, Chris Werner, Mike Guyon, Evert Garcia

**Minutes:** The March 2017 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions. The February 2017 meeting minutes await review and approval.

### **Open Forum:**

- Margy announced an upcoming electric vehicle event which is being held at the Brighton Memorial Library on May 15th. As a kick-off to Curb Your Car Week, Kat Fisher, the New York Electric Vehicle Initiative Representative for the national Sierra Club, will present EV Basics and Advocacy Opportunities. This event will be held at the Brighton Memorial Library and is co-sponsored by the Brighton Memorial Library, Color Brighton Green, the Rochester People's Coalition and Sierra Club.
- Shubhangi asked if the SOC was interested in having the Nature Conservancy present to the group. The SOC indicated that a presentation by the Nature Conservancy should focus on issues that directly affect Brighton. Shubhangi will determine what subject matters/presentations might be available and report back to the SOC.

### **Announcements:**

### **Old Business**

- RPCC Forum: New York State of Climate Action
  - Paul suggested that the Town Board should be notified of the various pieces of legislation currently being discussed with regards to sustainability at the State government level. One of the biggest issues with attempting to inform the Town Board about current legislation being debated is how to track the legislation. Ron indicated that Mark Dunly might be able to provide some information in this regard and will follow up with Mr. Dunly.
  - The SOC discussed the possibility of writing letters to the Town Board to show support for certain initiatives being discussed at the State level.
  - Overall, the group felt that the event was informative and were glad they were able to attend.
- Solar Ordinance and Tree City USA

- The SOC re-visited Sherry's concern regarding this matter and reviewed the proposed amendments by Sherry to the existing solar ordinance.
- Chris indicated that the Town Board is seeking input from the SOC on this subject.
- The SOC generally felt that trees should be taken into consideration and are not advocating for one ordinance over the other. There is some concern on behalf of the SOC with regards to the last sentence of Sherry's proposed amendments which discusses "sunlight easements."
- Given that the Town Attorney is currently reviewing the Solar Ordinance language, the SOC indicated that they should wait for his determination of the language prior to discussing this matter further.
- Town staff will send out Sherry's proposed solar ordinance amendments to the SOC for reference in future discussions.
- Climate Action Plan
  - The SOC discussed Leyla's progress on the CAP. Leyla has drafted an introduction to the CAP and will be putting together a comparison of the CAP goals established by NYS and the City of Binghamton. Ultimately, the SOC will need to decide on what goals to use as a threshold for the CAP.
  - Leyla is finished with school for the year and is therefore done with working on the CAP. She plans on returning in the Fall of 2017 and is interested in resuming work on the CAP at that time.
  - Ron would like for the SOC to review the CAP's introduction and goal comparison document prior to next month's meeting.
  - Ron previously asked Mike to come up with a budgetary estimate of hiring a consultant to write the CAP. Mike performed the analysis and estimates that the cost would range from \$100,000-\$106,000.
  - The SOC also discussed alternatives to assist with writing the CAP, such as research students, given the potential high cost of hiring a consultant. It was determined that further discussion on this matter is warranted.
- Comprehensive Plan Vision, Policy Framework and Recommendations
  - The SOC has prepared a comment letter in response to their review of the draft policy framework which will be submitted to the comprehensive plan committee for consideration.
- CSC Element Priority Discussion
  - The SOC briefly discussed the results of the CSC priority items survey. With the exception of Pledge Element 8, a priority item for each Climate Smart Community Pledge Element has been selected.
  - The SOC determined that GHG reduction goals must first be established before further streamlining of the most important pledge elements can occur. Additionally, a firm baseline year must also be determined.

- Erinn indicated that she is willing to perform an analysis on various GHG reduction scenarios from our current baseline year of 2014. The SOC indicated that reduction scenarios should be separate between Town operations and Community level.
- New York State is using 1990 as the baseline year for GHG reduction calculations. The SOC wondered how the 1990 threshold was established by NYS and whether the Town should also be using 1990 in order to be consistent. Town staff and members of the SOC will do some research on this matter.
- Development Update
  - The latest developments on projects within the Town were briefly discussed.
  - Whole Foods- A Town Board Workshop to view the Synchro traffic model simulation for Proposed Whole Foods project will be held on 5/2/2017.
- ECO Fair Participation
  - The SOC discussed participating at this year's Color Brighton Green's Eco-Fair which will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2017. This matter will be discussed further at the next SOC meeting.

#### **New Business**

#### **Adjournment**

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be June 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM.