



# Sustainability Oversight Committee

Secretary – Evert Garcia

Town of

**Brighton**

Due to the public gathering restrictions and executive orders in place because of COVID-19, this Sustainability Oversight Committee meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom. Members of the public can participate during the open forum via Zoom. For Zoom meeting information, please reference the Town's Live Streaming webpage at:

<https://www.townofbrighton.org/499/Streaming-Video>

## **Sustainability Oversight Committee January 6, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Erinn Ryen, Mitch Nellis, Nate Gibbs, Paul Tankel, Shubhangi Gandhi, Brian Lynch, Robin Wilt, Evert Garcia

### **Open Forum:**

**Minutes:** The November 2020 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

### **Announcements:**

- Paul indicated that the Community Design Center's lecture series for this season will be announced soon. The theme for this year is Building a Just Community. The series will kick off with former Mayor Bill Johnson providing insight on how Rochester might be transformed into a community of equity and justice. Paul will share more information on the lecture series with the rest of committee when it is available.

### **Old Business**

- **Membership Update- Special Thanks to Ron Wexler-Past President**
  - The committee thanked Ron Wexler, Past President of the committee, for his many years of service to the SOC. Ron has elected not to renew his membership in the SOC as he is currently focusing on his renewable energy startup company.
- **Annual Report-Update**
  - Erin and Shubhangi provided a summary of their presentation of the Annual Report to the Town Board in November. The presentation was successful and was well received by the Town Board.
- **Climate Action Plan Grant-Update**
  - Like other grant applications in the Town, staff is awaiting a response from the regulatory agency on how to proceed.

- **Pollinator Habitat-Field Trip Update and Next Steps**
  - The committee reviewed pictures of the sites which are being considered for the installation of pollinator habitats. The SOC agreed that the areas selected as potential pollinator habitats are good candidates.
  - Town staff has reached out to Tom Snyder, Seneca Park Zoo Conservatory, for guidance on the next steps in the process. Tom has agreed to attend the SOC's February meeting to discuss this matter further.
  - The committee discussed the possibility of reviewing the Town's mowing policy as part of a broader discussion about this subject.
- **SOC Focus Areas- Summary of Discussions with Commissioner**
  - Erinn and Evert summarized their meeting with Commissioner of Public Works, Mike Guyon, to review projects that the SOC can work on without affecting volunteer work designated for the Climate Action Plan.
  - Some projects that the SOC can work on as they await the CAP funding include the following topics:
    - Identification of software to manage and update the Town's tree inventory.
    - Review of the current leaf and yard debris pickup policy.
    - Review of current snow and ice policies.
    - Review of current lawn mowing policies.
    - Research policies and procedures that other communities follow.
    - Find educational material to post on the website related to sustainability.
    - Review of sidewalk and pedestrian infrastructure.
    - Updates to the Town standards for construction.
    - Identification of sustainability related grants.
  - The SOC bylaws indicate that the committee must be charged by the Town Board before they can work on certain matters. The committee decided to write a letter to the Town Board requesting authorization to research, review, and provide recommendations on items related to energy conservation and climate change mitigation measures as noted in the listed above.
  - The committee decided to select three focus areas as part of their request to the Town Board. These focus areas include updates to the Town's zoning laws, review of current mowing policies, and education.
  - The SOC also expressed interest in engaging other Town committees such as the IDEA board to work together on these focus areas.
  - Town staff will prepare a draft letter to the Town Board and distribute to the SOC for review and comment.
- **CCA Update**
  - The Town of Brighton CCA is officially in effect. The supply rates being provided to Town residents as part of the CCA initiative are historically low.
- **Development Project Updates**
  - Updates to development projects within the Town were briefly discussed.

## **New Business**

- **NYS Stretch Code RFI**
  - The SOC briefly discussed NYS State's request for information (RFI) on desired code changes for the next updates to the NYS Stretch energy code.
  - It might be difficult to provide an official response to the RFI due to the tight deadline, however, this might be a good document for the committee to become familiar with when work related to the CAP starts.

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for **February 3, 2021**, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

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