



Sustainability Oversight Committee

Secretary – Evert Garcia

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 February 3, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Erinn Ryen, Mitch Nellis, Nate Gibbs, Paul Tankel, Shubhangi Gandhi, Brian Lynch, Robin Wilt, Tom Snyder, Dave Riddell, Mike Guyon, Evert Garcia

Open Forum:

Minutes:

The January 2021 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

Announcements:

Old Business

- **Pollinator Habitat-Next Steps with Tom Snyder and Dave Riddell from the Seneca Park Zoo**
 - After considering various sites for the installation of pollinator habitats, the committee has narrowed down the choices to the Lac de Ville stormwater pond site and the Deerfield Woods stormwater pond site.
 - The committee is now looking for guidance on the next steps required to proceed with the installation of pollinator habitats at these sites. Tom Snyder and Dave Riddell from the Seneca Park Zoo attended the meeting to provide their recommendations on how to approach the installation of pollinator habitats at these sites.
 - Tom and Dave indicated that a few things to consider when moving forward with the installation are scope of installation, budget, timeframe for seeing results, and expectations of the various stakeholders.
 - Tom and Dave think that the Town should also consider the installation of a clover lawn as a potential tree lawn cover replacement. Clover lawns are generally low growth, do not require mowing, and handle foot traffic well. Town staff is interested in testing out clover-based lawns to see if it can work in the right of ways. Tom will share some pictures with the committee on what a clover-based lawn looks like.
 - Nate inquired about the effort required to prep each site for the installation of a pollinator habitat.

Tom indicated that prep effort is generally low especially if considering the “lasagna” method, which involves the installation of alternating layers of cardboard, seed mix, and plantings. This method would simply be installed over the existing ground cover.

- Maintenance after the first year is generally minimal and involves the pulling of weeds and invasive species. This could occur once a year at a community event.
- Tom and Dave suggested that the best time for installation is usually in the fall.
- For the pilot project, the committee decided to focus on the Lac de Ville pond site. Tom and Dave will take a closer look at the Lac de Ville site and develop a proposal with various options for the Town to consider. Tom indicated that for a site like Lac de Ville, it would be best to look at two or three points of installation.
- **Climate Action Plan Grant-Update**
 - Town staff received notification that the grant is ready to proceed into the contract signing phase. Town staff will work with the State agency to complete this process.
- **Draft SOC Town Board Request Letter-Review**
 - The SOC bylaws indicate that the committee must be charged by the Town Board to work on certain matters. The committee has 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 they wait for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) funding process to be finalized.
 - The committee reviewed and provided comments on a draft copy of the letter to the Town Board.
 - Town staff will incorporate the comments discussed at the meeting and then share a final draft via Google Drive with the committee for final review.
- **CCA Update**
 - Source Power, the Town’s CCA energy supplier, will be sending out marketing material for community solar to encourage more participation in this program. For every resident participating in community solar, Source Power will provide a contribution to a dedicated sustainability fund to support one or more projects benefitting the environment in Brighton.
- **Development Project Updates**
 - Updates to development projects within the Town were briefly discussed.

New Business

- **Senate Bill 1185**
 - The committee briefly discussed NYS Senate Bill 1185 which would be the first recycling bill in the nation that would shift the responsibility for recycling to the producer. Additionally, the bill aims to create a fund for recycling centers.
 - Nate would like the committee to provide a letter of support for this bill. The committee will review and discuss this matter at a subsequent meeting.
- **Senate Bill 1113**
 - The committee briefly discussed NYS Senate Bill 1113 which relates to prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf and lawn blowers during certain months. Similarly, Robin would like the SOC to consider supporting this bill. The committee will review and discuss this matter at a subsequent meeting.
- **Clean Energy Communities Grant**
 - The SOC briefly discussed the announcement of a new round of funding for Clean Energy Communities (CEC).
 - The committee would like to invite the Town’s designated CEC coordinator to the next meeting to discuss what the funding can be used for and provide an overview of the program.

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

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

DRAFT