



# 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 May 5, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendance:**

Erinn Ryen, Mitch Nellis, Nate Gibbs, Shubhangi Gandhi, Robin Wilt, Evert Garcia, Dave Byrne -Guest

#### **Open Forum:**

#### **Minutes:**

The April 2021 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

#### **Announcements:**

- Paul Tankel has announced his resignation from the SOC. Paul will be moving to Seattle to spend time with his family and therefore can no longer participate in the committee. The SOC thanks Paul for the many years of contribution to the committee and wish him well.
- A call for applicants has been issued by the Town to fill the vacant position on the committee. Any Brighton resident interested in serving on the SOC should submit a letter of interest and resume to Bridget Monroe in the Supervisor's office.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

- **EV Installations with Renua Energy-Dave Byrne**
  - Dave Byrne gave a presentation to the SOC on the energy services offered by his company, Renua Energy. Renua Energy is based out of Glenn Falls, NY and seeks to empower commercial and utility solar project developers to deploy their projects more efficiently.
  - Dave spoke to the SOC about the option to install EV charging stations at no or minimal cost to the Town. Renua would partner with a third-party operator who will serve as the long-term owner and operator of the station. The Town would simply provide the land or space needed for the station. There is potential for revenue sharing through this model. This model would relieve that Town from needing to outlay the initial capital expenditure for the purchase and installation of the station.
  - The Town will have to review how this model complies with the procurement requirements.
  - Contracts under this model are typically five (5) years long, with potential extensions to help the Owner/Operator break even.

- Renua works with the “evconnect” software platform. Dave indicated that typical charging rates under this model range from \$0.20-\$0.25 per kWh if the host site provides the electricity. If not, which would be the case in Brighton, the rates would have to be increased to account for the cost of electricity.
- Robin inquired about the extents of Renua’s existing contracts with other municipalities. Dave indicated that they have not really pursued municipal clients as they have focused mostly on private clients.
- The committee is interested in this installation model and would like to explore at a later time.

## **Old Business**

### **○ Pollinator Garden-Update**

- Last month Tom presented the Lac de Ville pond pollinator garden proposal to the committee. The proposal includes four (4) distinct improvement areas/sites as part of the overall pollinator garden installation plan.
- After the presentation, the committee asked Tom for some revisions to the provided estimate. Town staff will follow up with Tom and report back to the committee with any updates.
- Mitch indicated that he has been in communication with the Rotary Club who has expressed interest in helping to fund some of the costs associated with the installation of the pollinator habitats.

### **○ CEC Update**

- Town staff is working on obtaining a copy of the energy service agreement (ESA) with our energy supplier for the CCA. Once a copy of the agreement is obtained, Town staff will submit the documents to NYSERDA in order to receive points for a completed high impact action item under the CEC program.
- The committee reviewed the various options available for obtaining more points under the CEC program. Robin has started working on a draft letter to the Town Board discussing what projects could be prioritized by the Town in order to complete more action items under the new CEC program.
- The committee would like to learn more about the requirements for the stretch energy code in order to determine the best course of action for the Town.

### **○ CAP**

- The committee discussed the possibility of moving the SOC meeting night to a different night which will allow for other staff members to assist with the development of the CAP.
- Evert will send out an email to staff and the committee to see what alternate days during the month works best for everyone.
- The committee reviewed the changes made to the RFP so that it is more aligned with the grant work plan. Town staff will email the revised RFP to the committee for final review and final comment before submitting to the DEC for approval.

### **○ Sustainability Fund**

- The Town Board is looking for feedback from the SOC on what projects to use the sustainability funds on.
- Erinn summarized a list of potential projects for the Sustainability fund on a spreadsheet and shared it with the committee.
- Town staff will draft a letter to the Town Board which reflects the results of the spreadsheet on potential projects which can be funded by the sustainability fund.
- The committee would like to prioritize projects that are high profile and that the community can see and learn from.

### **○ Senate Bills 1185/1113**

- The committee has opted to not pursue the letter of support for Senate Bill S1185, the State Senate recycling bill, at this time. The committee will review this matter at a later time as part of the Climate

Action Plan.

- Similarly, the committee has also opted not to pursue the letter of support for Senate Bill S1113, related to prohibiting the use of gas-powered blowers during summer months, at this time. The committee would like to explore potential impacts to Town Highway crews and operations if this bill were to be enacted.
- Town staff indicated that Highway crews do use gas-powered leaf blowers during summer operations as part of paving related work, yard debris pickup, and mowing operations.
- The SOC will explore this matter as part of the CIP budget review and the upcoming Climate Action Plan.

### **New Business**

### **Adjournment**

### **Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for **June 14, 2021**, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.