



# Sustainability Oversight Committee

Secretary – Evert Garcia

**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 June 14, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendance:**

Erinn Ryen, Shubhangi Gandhi, Mitch Nellis, Nate Gibbs, Robin Wilt, Evert Garcia, Ramsey Boehner-Guest, Jeff Frisch-Guest, Mike DeWein-Guest, Josh Stack-Guest

#### **Open Forum:**

#### **Minutes:**

The approval of the May 2021 meeting minutes will be deferred until the July meeting.

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Guest Speaker:**

##### **○ Josh Stack and Mike DeWein-NYS Stretch Energy Code Presentation**

- Josh Stack and Mike DeWein gave a presentation to the SOC on the various components of the NYStretch Energy Code. NYStretch is a stricter local energy code which supplements the 2020 NYS Energy Code that was adopted on May 12, 2020.
- NYStretch was developed to aid local municipalities meet their energy and climate goals by accelerating the savings obtained through their local building energy codes. NYStretch is one code cycle ahead of the current building code. The ultimate goal is to get buildings in NY State to net zero or carbon neutral.
- With NYStretch, municipalities can expect a 7.1% energy savings for commercial buildings and 21.5% savings for residential buildings. Costs for commercial properties will likely increase by \$1.14 per sf, and \$2,156 for a single-family home. Simple payback for commercial buildings is calculated at 10.5 years for commercial buildings and 5.5 years for single family homes.
- Josh is really excited about the Healthy Building component of NYStretch due to enhanced thermal envelope, enhanced ventilation system, and performance testing of installed systems.
- Josh indicated that there are construction strategies which can be implemented to help offset the costs associated with NYStretch building components.
- Ramsey inquired about potential training and funding opportunities which might be available for the

- various code enforcement officers and inspectors in the Town.
- Josh indicated that NYSERDA is offering training for early adopters, code officials, and design professionals, however, no additional funding is being offered. Additionally, meeting NYStretch brings you closer to other NYSERDA programs which can unlock other funding opportunities.
- Mike Dewein indicated that adopting NYStretch gets you closer to additional funding under the Clean Energy Community program based on the large number of points that the NYStretch high impact action item is valued at.
- Ramsey has concerns about the familiarity of the NYStretch code in the design professional community.
- The SOC is interested in submitting a letter of recommendation for NYStretch energy code to the Town Board. The committee discussed the best path forward for presenting the NYStretch energy code adoption request to other committees in the Town and ultimately, the Town Board.

## **Old Business**

- **Pollinator Garden-Update**
  - Last month Tom Snyder 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.
  - Town staff is waiting for revisions to the estimate which will account for additional material and provide a price breakdown by each improvement area. Town staff will follow up with Tom and report back to the committee with updates.
- **CEC Update**
  - Town staff submitted the required CCA documents to NYSERDA and obtained points for this high impact action item.
  - Brighton is up to 2,300 points in the leadership round of the CEC program and is now considered one of the regional leaders. The first threshold for becoming eligible for a CEC grant under the leadership round is 3,000 points.
  - Robin indicated that she would like to finalize the CEC priority letter as she would like to discuss this matter at Wednesday's Community Services Committee meeting. There is some urgency to finalizing the letter at this time as some of the recommendations in the letter have become a priority. Joule Assets, our CCA coordinator, has indicated that NYSERDA and National Grid have submitted a petition to replace municipal action with utility intervention for the CCA and CDG programs as they would like the authority to distribute the energy credits provided under these programs to low- and moderate-income customers. Although the intention is good, there is concern about removing municipal leadership from the process and removing the direct relationship between low- and moderate-income customers and their municipalities.
  - Town staff will distribute the draft letter to the rest of the committee for final review. Comments should be submitted by Tuesday night so that the final letter can be discussed at the Community Services meeting on Wednesday morning.
- **CAP**
  - The committee reviewed the updated SOC meeting schedule to accommodate more Town staff to help out with the development of the CAP.
  - The RFP has been finalized and submitted to NYS DEC for approval for publishing. Town staff received comments back from the DEC today and they are minor in nature. Town staff anticipates publishing the RFP this week on the NYS Contract Reporter platform. Proposals will be due on July 8<sup>th</sup> and reviewed by the SOC at the July 12 meeting.
  - The committee reviewed the consultant grading rubric which will be used to grade the proposals.
- **Sustainability Fund**
  - The Town Board is looking for feedback from the SOC on what projects to use the sustainability

funds on.

- Town staff has drafted a letter which reflects the results of the spreadsheet developed by the committee to evaluate potential projects which can be sponsored by the sustainability fund.
- Town staff will share the draft letter with the committee as a Google document for final review before submitting to the Town Board. Comments and revisions should be submitted by the end of the week.
- The committee indicated that as a general comment, they would like to add more variety to the letter and include projects which received fewer votes in the spreadsheet.
- Mitch indicated that the committee should include a statement in the letter indicating that the Town should also reach out to the general public for feedback on how to best use the funds.

### **New Business**

- **Membership Update**
  - A call for applications to join the SOC has been issued by the Town and the deadline for applications is today. Town staff will follow up with the next steps in this process.
- **Format of July Meeting**
  - Erinn is looking for feedback from the committee on the desired format for July's meeting. Robin indicated that it is unlikely that in-person meetings will be allowed for committees by July. It is likely that fall will be more realistic, therefore, the July meeting will continue to be held via zoom.  
**Subsequent to this meeting, the SOC was informed that the Governor did not renew the executive order which authorized remote public meetings, therefore, the next SOC meeting will be held in-person.**

### **Adjournment**

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for **July 12, 2021**, at 7:00 PM in the **Town Hall Auditorium**.