



# Sustainability Oversight Committee

Secretary – Evert Garcia

## **Sustainability Oversight Committee October 18, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Erinn Ryen, Shubhangi Gandhi, Mitch Nellis, William Bayer, William Brower, Brian Lynch, Robin Wilt, Evert Garcia

#### **Open Forum:**

**Minutes:** The September 2021 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Guest Speaker:**

#### **Old Business**

- **CEC-Update**
  - Town staff provided a brief update on Rob Richardson's (local CEC coordinator) presentation to the Public Works committee regarding the CEC program.
  - Discussions with the Public Works committee indicated that the Town is amenable to adopting the stretch code as long as the program is properly vetted. There are concerns about the availability of training for both the design professionals and code enforcement officials who will be enforcing the new code requirements. Town staff does not currently have the resources to successfully implement the NYS Stretch Code and train the builders and design professionals at the same time. The Public Works committee indicated that a subcommittee will be formed to explore the adoption of the NYS Stretch code further.
  - The Public Works committee also discussed the potential adoption of the Unified Solar Permit (USP). The Town has considered this application in the past. However, the Town requires that the ARB review solar applications and does not allow ground and/or building mounted solar arrays both are in conflict with the unified permit.
  - Members of the SOC expressed interest in drafting a letter to the Town Board with regards to amending the Local Law to streamline the solar installation approval process.
- **Sustainability Fund Letter-Next Steps**
  - The sustainability fund letter was previously reviewed by the Town Board at a Finance Committee meeting. The letter was well received with the Board being most favorable to the following ideas: supplementing the CAP if needed, installation of pollinator habitat in conjunction with Rotary and Seneca Park Zoo, and the expansion of EV stations throughout the Town.
  - The SOC discussed the next steps in the process to consider the installation of a pollinator habitat at the Lac de Ville Boulevard stormwater management pond.

- The committee discussed the potential for engaging the community around the stormwater pond as part of the proposed improvements. This task will likely require a great deal of effort from members of the committee.
- Town staff will coordinate a meeting between members of the SOC, the Seneca Park Zoo Society, and the Commissioner of Public Works to discuss further.
- Once the final scope of the project has been established, the project will have to be officially submitted to the Town Board for approval.
- **Climate Action Plan (CAP)**
  - After reviewing all of the follow up information and clarifications requested, the SOC is recommending that the Town Board select Barton & Loguidice as the consultant to complete the Town's CAP.
  - Town staff will present the consultant recommendation to the Finance Committee next before submitting the recommendation to the Town Board for final approval.
  - A meeting with Barton and Loguidice to kick off the CAP project will occur in December. Prior to the meeting with the consultant, members of the SOC should review all of the draft documents related to the CAP which are available on the shared drive folder.

### **New Business**

- **Pesticide Use Discussion**
  - The SOC discussed regulating the use of herbicides and pesticides in the Town of Brighton.
  - Town of Brighton internal policy prohibits the use of herbicides and pesticides for Town Operations. The community at large however, is regulated by the current NYS laws and requirements regarding the use of herbicides and pesticides.
  - Members of the SOC indicated that this matter could possibly be addressed as part of the CAP.
  - Members of the SOC expressed interest in drafting a letter of support for a State senate bill currently under consideration which aims to ban the use of some pesticides.
- **Tree Inventory Project**
  - Mitch N. provided a brief update on the Conservation Board's tree inventory project. The Conservation Board is currently considering hiring part time staff to complete the updated Town tree inventory.

### **Adjournment**

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting November 2021 SOC Meeting was cancelled.