

Green Team Meeting September 4, 2008

Attendance: Reilly, Hansen, VanDyke, Spencer, Haddox, Tennant, Kotcon, Kirby, Orso, Nichols, Wonderlin, Durfee, Harris

Wonderlin called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Item 1: Minutes of the August Green Team meeting were approved without change. Thanks to Chris Van Dyke for serving as Secretary.

Item 2: New Street Lighting in Morgantown

We discussed the plan to replace mercury vapor lamps with high-pressure sodium lamps. Chris Haddox discussed the use and advantages of using induction lights, invented by Tesla. These lamps are a very white light and 75-89% more efficient than mercury lamps and 40% more efficient than sodium lamps. The induction lamps last longer, are good in cold weather, and do not degrade as quickly as the other lamps. They are more expensive than either of the other choices. There is a pilot induction bulb project going on in Clarksburg that we will keep an eye on. Boroff is open to the idea although Allegheny is not. This may mean that the City will install the induction lamps if Allegheny will not.

1. Fire Station

Construction is set to begin this week with the pouring of the foundation.

Item 3: Green Vision and Comprehensive Plan

Don Spencer previously discussed the need for an integrated plan or vision that will lead to the establishment of goals for the City. Today he emphasized that the Green Team should have some plan for what we want to accomplish. The last Plan was done by the City in 1998 and the new one, to be completed by July of 2009 will have a similar scope. It will include a neighborhood vision and can contain the goals of the Green Team also. Wonderlin suggested we might take some existing model and modify it to our purposes.

Don mentioned a Green Cities Conference in Portland, OR on April 18-22, 2009 and suggested it would be good for a Green Team member to attend. Kirby suggested that the WV Development Office might be able to fund this travel.

Action: We will try to get funding to send Boroff and one Green Team member. Evan Hansen and Chris Haddox will look at the current Comprehensive Plan and report back to the Green Team.

Item 4: Membership and Attendance Policy of Green Team (attached document)

Bill Wonderlin discussed this and submitted a diagram of how he sees membership and voting works in the Green Team (attached). Chris VanDyke asked whether Implementation of the plan would require taking attendance, which would take some effort and recordkeeping. Linda Durfee asked about the current membership number, which is 20.

Action: the policy was approved in principle with the understanding that Wonderlin will alter the wording to satisfy the concerns of the Green Team (at least those who were attending).

Item 5: Update for Green Team Website

No information.

Item 6: Reports from Standing Committees

Committees had no reports (many out of town for vacations)

Item 7: New Business

a. Chris Haddox mentioned a Solar Conference, September 19-20 at Shepherd University. This is a hands-on solar workshop with the possibility of viewing available products.

b. Will Reilly discussed energy usage assessment and the idea of utilizing natural gas to power automobiles. There is a cost for conversion of vehicles to use natural gas and we discussed the economic feasibility of

this idea. There is still a greenhouse contribution to propelling cars with gas, but less pollution of other sorts, and perhaps lower costs.

c. A proposal to drill for natural gas on some City property was discussed. This is the Marcellus Shale and drilling is quite deep as the shale is over a mile down. There were concerns about the large water usage for this drilling process and about what will be done with the wastewater. The City is planning to move on this and has a review team. Hansen suggested that a Green Team member sit on this review team. Harris mentioned that Trout Unlimited has a campaign related to protecting trout waters from this drilling and will send it to the team. The document (now sent) outlines the dangers of this kind of drilling to both streams and sources of drinking water.

d. There was some discussion of whom we could recruit for the Transportation Committee.

Next meeting is October 2 and 4pm in the Public Safety building.

Adjourned at 5:45 pm