

Green Team Meeting June 3, 2010

Attendance: Will Reilly, Max Reinke, Ryan Hess, Chris Haddox, Nate Askins, Steve Woodruff, Trevor Lloyd, Jim Kotcon, Linda Durfee, Megan Nedzinski, Don Spencer, John Barnes, Chris Van Dyke (acting secretary).

Meeting began at 4:04 PM.

Item 1. Minutes of the May 6 Green Team meeting were approved without change.

Item 2. Introductions. John Barnes introduced himself. He works in heating and air conditioning and has a long-standing interest in energy efficiency; he used to perform energy audits in Pennsylvania.

Item 3. Correspondence. Tamma Melton sent a “Thank you” for participation in the Ruby Hospital’s Green Fair. This led to a discussion of “blue wraps,” polypropylene sheets that the hospital landfills in large quantities. Chris Haddox stated the School of Agriculture is currently experimenting with using blue wraps as an ingredient in structural panels.

Item 4. IEBG update and related business. Max Reinke described the Green Night at the Library scheduled for June 17. Nick Hine from Positive Spin will discuss alternative transportation. The “Green Riders,” a brother and sister riding across the country on electrically assisted bicycles, will also be present. Max reported that he is looking for alternatives for a permanent display board; the donated display is missing pieces that cost \$180 to replace.

Megan stated that the topic for July’s Green Night is local foods. Two people from the extension office will discuss food preparation and preservation. Megan is currently talking to some local chefs who may also attend. The library has given special permission for serving food in the library for this event. Megan also mentioned that a new vendor might be needed to print banners.

Linda Durfee reported on the “Garden Gourmet” composters that are sourced from a distributor in Toronto. The finished size is 24” X 24” X 36” and retail for \$75. They ship 32 to a pallet, with per unit shipping costs decreasing with more pallets ordered. Shipping will be \$6/unit for 3 pallets; the Solid Waste Authority is willing to receive the delivery. Linda thought they could be sold for \$48 if the city was willing to pay the shipping costs as a subsidy. Pre-sales could be taken at Green Nights. Trevor Lloyd said the City might subsidize – a proposal to the City needs to be prepared and submitted. Trevor suggested the Farmers’ Market as a potential sales location.

After a discussion on Green night topics, some possibilities include: Sept. – repeating sustainable architecture, Oct. – Green Investing (who?), Nov. – repeat green cleaning or sustainable holiday meals (who?), Dec. – green gifts (who?).

Item 5. City Report. Trevor Lloyd is writing a grant to REAP to fund an asphalt recycler. This machine takes asphalt millings and rejuvenating fluid to produce hot patch. The process is desirable in that the millings are not land filled, cold patch is not purchased, and hot patch is more durable. Nearby municipalities could use the recycler by supplying millings and receiving hot patch in return.

Trevor announced that Dan Boroff will be retiring in October.

Trevor reported that the Farmers’ Market pavilion process will start next week; construction will probably begin after the end of next year’s season. The pavilion will allow for an extended season for the Farmers’ Market. Linda Durfee stated donations for this may be made at www.gmctfoundation.org.

Item 6. ARC Grant. Chris Haddox said that proposals for the energy grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission are due in August. This \$75,000 grant is designated to help communities prepare an energy plan or to assist implementation of an energy plan. Monongalia County is not on list of preferred locations, but the grant could still be funded. Will Reilly asked if the grant could pay for weatherization. Chris responded that these grants primarily fund infrastructure and not “bricks and sticks.” The grants also require matching funds; Chris reported that Dan Boroff stated the City could possibly contribute a \$20,000 match. Chris suggested brainstorming possibilities.

Don Spencer encouraged the committees to think in terms of city initiatives. The City is currently going through a re-evaluation phase and is preparing for new leadership with Dan Boroff’s imminent retirement. Dan has been supportive of Green Team and Don hopes to find this in a new city manager. Don noted that the new City Hall is still “on the books” and that this should be gold or silver LEED certified.

Item 7. *Dominion Post* articles. Megan asked about articles written for the *Dominion Post*. Max reported he had pitched some articles and that Sheila Westfall had not followed up on the green weddings topic. Chris Haddox noted the difficulties associated with getting articles published and suggested it may not be worth the expended energy.

Item 8. Comprehensive plan. Megan inquired about the Green Team’s contribution to the comprehensive plan. Jim Kotcon noted that Sheila Westfall would be leaving the area in August; she is willing to come back to meet. Jim Kotcon will contact Sheila.

Item 9. Energy Committee Report. Jim Kotcon reported that Ginger Stern has resigned as the energy intern. The construction brochure she worked on is nearly complete. The street light inventory is more than half finished. Work never started on the city fleet inventory. Jim inquired how to proceed with a replacement. Trevor will request Dan Boroff to approve a replacement; Jim will distribute the same job description if the position is approved. Trevor requested to be part of the interview process.

Item 10. New Business

Chris Haddox mentioned the upcoming county school board meetings regarding the consolidation of Easton and Woodburn elementary schools. On June 8 in the school board office, the architect will show the possibilities at various sites, and Woodburn residents will present a plan for a new building at the existing Woodburn site. On June 22, 6 PM at UHS is the closing hearing for Easton Elementary. On June 24 at 6 PM at UHS is the closing hearing for Woodburn Elementary.

Next Meeting is at July 1, 2010 at 4 PM in the Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.