



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, August 2, 2018

Attending: Joe Coffey, Scott Kellogg, Bill Trudeau, Sandy Misiewicz, Allison Bradley, Laurie Wheelock, Randy Milano, Frank Zeoli, Andre Lake, Tina Lieberman, Daniel Kirk-Davidoff, Pete Sheehan (Acting Chair)

Laura Trivison and Zach Powell (Support from City Planning)

Absent: Jill Kasow (Chair), Ewa Sobczynska (Secretary), Chris Spencer

1. Regular Business

- Pete Sheehan referred to the June 6, 2018 minutes and recommended one correction of the minutes. With that correction, the minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Public Comments:** Mark Schaeffer (member of the Energy Subcommittee), described the necessity of not using fossil fuels in light of the conclusive evidence of global warming – in line with James Hansen’s warnings. Mark also referred to the book “Drawdown” which according to the book lists the top 100 measures that can/must be taken to avert the worst effects of global warming. Lastly he discussed the concept of “extended producer recycling” in solid waste control. Hailey Grimes, a student from HVCC mentioned that she would like to get involved in environmental forums and is now involved in the group “WRISE” – Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy. She was encouraged to get involved in a SAC subcommittee where her expertise could be put to great use. Dan Spillman also mentioned that he would like to become involved with the SAC and its subcommittees.

2. New Business

- **SAC Bi-annual report:** Pete Sheehan explained that when Ewa Sobczynska returns, she will compile the SAC Annual report covering the time period of July, 2016 through June, 2018. The report has typically been produced annually but due to key absences, has been consolidated for the two year time period referenced above.
- **Committee Reports:** Transportation: Sandy Misiewicz explained that her subcommittee reports have been sent out to the entire SAC for their review and comment. The subcommittee is developing a priority list of streets to recommend to the City for high end bicycle facilities. The group is also going to be exploring EV charging station locations beyond commercial parking lots including public parking areas, on street spaces and home based options. Urban Farming/Agriculture: Scott Kellogg explained that while the subcommittee has not met on a regular formal basis, he has acted in the role of liaison between different



community groups and individuals in hosting working groups (at Radix) interested in urban farming issues such as legalizing chicken husbandry and helping to modify (drafts) city zoning codes to implement same. Scott mentioned that the new City Forester Jay Laevigne has been supportive of these efforts.

Another working area in the urban farming arena has been preparation of a guidebook on how to handle and accommodate vacant city lots so they can be farmed. The other project is the “floating island” being deployed in Island Creek Park to treat sewage overflows there. It is considered by Joe Coffey to be scalable for use in other City-owned bodies of water such as Tivoli Lake and Buckingham Pond. Energy: Pete Sheehan reported that the LED street lighting purchase by the City is still in play and that negotiations need to continue with National Grid to settle on the overall price. It was mentioned that the Village of Colonie has retrofitted a number of LEDs on street lights and is anticipating significant savings as we are here in Albany. Two other initiatives are still being worked on including the grant from NYSERDA to the Albany Affordable Housing Partnership for the Eco-Village project in Sheridan Hollow and the in-class sessions to be taught at Albany High by members of the Energy subcommittee. Discussion was held regarding the AnswersNSWERS Plant and a community benefits agreement which will be brought to the energy subcommittee. Outreach: Ewa Sobczynska is away and will report at the October meeting.

- **Vacant Committee Chair Posts**: There are currently no Chairs for the Built Environment/Land Use Committee or the Water Committee. Some members expressed interest in being on these committees but nothing has been firmed up yet. This will be brought up at the October meeting.
- **Potential New Committee on Solid Waste**: Tina Lieberman raised the potential for a solid waste committee within the SAC structure. Frank Zeoli reminded the SAC that there is currently a city-wide Solid Waste committee already and suggested that Tina and her colleagues could join that effort or become an extension of the Outreach Committee. This issue will be brought up at future meetings.
- **Commissioner Updates**: Water: Joe Coffey reported that the effort in implementing the carbon credits grant with the Nature Conservancy continues. Conservation easement to be finalized in August at the Alcove Reservoir. The Patroon Creek daylighting project is in play with the bids scheduled to go out this fall. The CFA applications for the Sheridan Hollow and Hackett Boulevard sewage improvement projects are coming due. The Ramsay-Ramsey Place water/sewer green infrastructure project is moving along as well. Department of General Services: Randy Milano reported that the CFA was just submitted for the Skyway Linear Park project and that the Madison Avenue improvements are nearly completed. Traffic Dept.: Bill Trudeau stated that his department is working on the Pedestrian Action-Safety Safety Action Plan Grant. Recycling:



Frank Zeoli reported that the door to door recycling information survey has been completed and that they reached approximately 3,000 residents. Frank also reported that the -City will very likely have to incur costs of between \$350,000-\$400,000 to have the household recycling material processed by Sierra Processing. This is due mainly to the fact that China no longer accepts recycling material.

- **Increased Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Features for Multi-Family Buildings and Commercial Projects that receive IDA Funding:** Pete Sheehan stated on this initiative to require these enhancements to these classification of buildings that receive IDA funding in the form of tax breaks and/or PILOT agreements. The plan is to have something for the SAC to review at the October meeting.
- **Adjournment**