

## **Elon Sustainability Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Elon Town Hall at 8:30 am**

Present: Lori Oakley, Planning Director, Jenna Peterson, Planner, David Murphy, Asst. Public Works Director, Randy Orwig, Town Council Member, Dennis Pagano, Adam Shaw, Lamont Tyson, Chloe Stuart, and Kelly Harer, committee members. No members of the public were in attendance.

**Item A-** Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

### **Item B- Minutes**

The minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting and the October 25, 2023, meetings were approved (5-0). Shaw made the motion to approve the minutes, and Tyson seconded it.

### **Item C- Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Item D- Old Business**

#### **Item D-i- Review energy audit scope and discussion**

Shaw provided the committee with a summary of the scope he worked on with Pagano in between meetings. Then, Shaw asked the committee for input. The committee wanted to clarify that the scope is focused on capital, specifically the Town's buildings. Harer suggested reaching out to the Town of Hillsborough and Duke Energy. Hillsborough has conducted an energy audit so they might be able to provide cost estimates and information about the process. Duke Energy might be able to conduct an audit or provide monthly reports showing ways to reduce energy consumption. Harer stated she will reach out to Hillsborough and Duke Energy.

Orwig asked how or if it's possible to capture human factors or behavior in an audit, like recycling, composting, etc. Harer said there can be different parts of sustainability, like transportation, education, energy, etc. Harer stated that defining sustainability for the Town can help identify the parts of sustainability that are the most important. Harer suggested reaching out to the community for input to see what sustainability means to them. Reaching out to the community also helps create a buy in to sustainability.

Pagano asked if anyone had any questions about the scope or the level 1 audit. The committee identified the next step as presenting to the Town Council, specifically here's actions that could be taken and here's what we recommend and how/why it is beneficial. Shaw said it might be better to keep things objective and broad, so the Town Council has options. From there, the committee can see what the Town is interested in, like whether the Town is interested in an energy audit. Orwig identified the Town Council meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as the goal for the committee to present an energy audit proposal at.

#### **Item D-ii- Discuss options for partnering with Elon University students for possible projects.**

Harer said this is a possibility. It just takes finding the right professor/class at the right time. Typically, faculty and students enjoy partnering with community groups for projects.

#### **Item D-iii- Educational opportunities for the committee**

Once a baseline is established, the Town can work on improving its sustainability. The benefits, like cost savings, can be used to educate community members and business owners.

**Item E- New Business**

**Item E-i- Review previous minutes for possible projects**

Pagano summarized the committee's previous minutes. The goal is to remind the committee of previous topics or projects to work. The committee has several new members, and this can help focus the committee on specific goals.

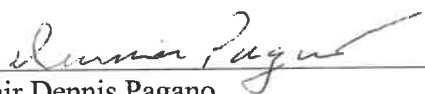
**Item F- Other items and updates from Planning Director**

Oakley informed the committee that the Land Management Ordinance was passed by the Town Council, Link Transit will start having a fare, and the Town is planning on contracting a grant writer.


Oakley mentioned the December meeting is in between holidays. The committee discussed possible meeting dates. Orwig suggested December 13, 2023. Shaw made a motion to move the December meeting. Stuart seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0).

Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pagano adjourned the meeting at 9:34am.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Chair Dennis Pagano

1/31/24  
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Date

  
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Interim Recording Secretary, Lori Oakley, on behalf of  
Recording Secretary, Jenna Peterson

1-31-24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date