

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

SUSTAINABLE GRAFTON AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2010

The Sustainable Grafton Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Rick Flood.

Members present: Rick Flood, Laura Weber, Jim Brunquell, Paul Van de Sand, John Gassert, Roger Kirgues (4:22 p.m.), and Ginny Plumeau by phone (4:58 p.m.).

Members Absent: Pamela Atterberry.

Staff/Officials present: Director of Public Works/Village Engineer David Murphy and Administrative Assistant Melissa Depies.

PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

None.

MINUTES

Motion by John Gassert, seconded by Laura Weber, to approve the February 17, 2010, Sustainable Grafton Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainability Guide Plan

Transportation: John Gassert highlighted the transportation section of the guide plan. He stated that he used the same premise as all other sections of "Buy Green - Build Green - Promote Green".

Implementation Activities: Reducing existing roads with low traffic counts when reconstructed and building new streets narrower. Director of Public Works/ Village Engineer Dave Murphy stated that this would only apply when the road is reconstructed, it would not apply if we were just resurfacing. Mr. Flood questioned if the term "low traffic count" was detailed enough, does the term leave too much individual interpretation. Mr. Murphy stated that this would apply to internal subdivision roads, meaning roads that are not connecting roads to major roads like Highway 60 or to a school. Mr. Murphy noted that the recommendation is for a road width of 30 feet; however, this width does not allow for on-street parking on both sides.

Buy Green: Establish policies that prioritize fuel economy when purchasing equipment. Encourage and evaluate the purchase of new vehicles that use alternative fuels such as hybrid, electric, and flex-fuel vehicles, and work to convert existing vehicles to use such fuels.

Jim Brunnuquell stated that the Village could also look at vehicles that get better fuel mileage for the squad cars.

Paul Van de Sand was concerned about the language "... and work to convert existing vehicles to use such fuels." He stated that if you convert a non alternative fuel vehicle you could void your warranties. It is also very costly to convert a vehicle to use alternative fuel.

Build Green: Both asphalt and concrete have advantages for road construction; however, other areas to build green are use of LED technology for traffic signals, street lighting, and parking lot lighting. Mr. Murphy noted that the Village already uses LED lights for the traffic signals, and the Village has installed a solar light for the parking lot on 13th Avenue near Harris Bank. Use of LED street lights is being studied by other communities as to light levels and spacing needs.

Mr. Kirgues noted that there are some issues with the LED light being used for traffic signals and street lights as they do not get hot enough to melt the snow and the candle wattage (light levels) for residential areas has not been verified.

Mr. Murphy stated that this technology could be tested in the parks or in the downtown plaza; however, the initial cost of this technology is still very expensive. Installing LED street lights on Falls Road between McDonalds and First Avenue may be an option in the next 2 or 3 years.

Promote Green: Promote bicycle and pedestrian traffic and the use of the regional mass transit system and develop a ride-share system on the village web page.

Mr. Van de Sand stated that communities receive points toward LEED certification for having things that promote pedestrian and bicycle traffic such as bike lanes, bike racks, and walking paths.

Promote Green: Inform residents of the cost savings in energy, maintenance costs, and progress toward improvements, such as a meter showing accumulated energy costs savings for using LED's. Mr. Murphy responded that the LED traffic signals save the Village approximately three dollars per day for each signal. Mr. Van de Sand stated that MATC has a web site that you can look at the comparisons for their facility for the solar installations.

Implementation Strategy:

Mr. Flood introduced an implementation strategy and read it to the Committee members. He would like members to think about this strategy as the guide plan should be completed and adopted at the next meeting. Mr. Flood noted that this strategy was copied from Burnsville. Mr. Gassert was concerned that there may be copyright issues if we use this language. Mr. Murphy suggested a notation at the end of document stating that information was obtained from Burnsville.

Mr. Gassert commented that when it comes to funding we must consider return on investment for anything we do that is sustainable. Number one priority in evaluating any project is that it should be sustainable and cost effective. Mr. Brunnuquell noted that on

going maintenance or program costs must be considered as well as acquisition cost. Ms. Weber noted that Natural Step has a process to follow for figuring this.

Mr. Brunnquell noted that as far as a staff person is concerned the Village will need to weigh sustainability as a whole to the services it provides to Village residents. Recently positions were eliminated and these positions may need to be re-instated before a sustainable staff member can be added. Mr. Murphy suggested that if the planner position, for example, is re-instated then sustainability may be a portion of the job description.

Invasive Species Management:

Ginny Plumeau was called at 4:58 p.m.

Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy questioned if there was a list of invasive species as well as a list of native species that can be promoted. Ms. Plumeau stated that there is and that information can be obtained from the UW system, links could be placed on the Village web site and/or added into this guide plan.

Mr. Gassert questioned if this section should include both animal (insects) and plant species. Ms. Plumeau stated that she would like to stick to just plant as they are pretty standardized the animal or insects tend to change regularly. Examples used were the Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer.

Ms. Weber suggested listing the agency in the plan and the link to obtain the most up-to-date information. Mr. Van de Sand noted that the lighting section contained similar type links.

Ms. Plumeau noted that dealing with the invasive plants will require a lot of additional work. She suggested that a citizen or volunteer group be coordinated to help with invasive species removal.

It was agreed that Ms. Plumeau and Mr. Murphy will meet to discuss how to modify this section as an outreach guide rather than requiring additional work for the Village.

Mr. Flood stated that there is a lot of good information here. This Committee did a great job at pulling together and getting this guide plan complete. Final assembly of the document will be ready for approval and recommendation at the April or May meeting.

Ms. Plumeau noted that she will not be available for the April meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by John Gassert, seconded by Jim Brunnquell, to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.