

**GREEN COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Joseph Minuta, Chairwoman
Leigh J. Benton, **Kevindaryán Luján**, David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Peter Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Julie Richmond, Deputy Commissioner of Planning
Zachary Coleman, Planner, Planning Department
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department

Chairman Minuta opened the committee meeting at 2:18 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Cheney who was absent.

Ms. Richmond addressed the first agenda item which was an update and brief discussion of LEED for Cities and Communities Certification as a Pilot Program. She stated that this committee is very familiar with the SUNY Orange EV Charging Stations saga and how the county received two grants to install a charging station at each of the SUNY campuses. There were several concerns regarding the in-house labor as well as the impact of paying for the utility. In 2019, the governor announced a new initiative called "Evolve New York" that contained three new grant funding sources involving green infrastructure, EV charging stations and electric vehicles. One of the grants encourages utility companies to work with private organizations to install EV infrastructure. The other two programs; one being the ZEV (Zero Emissions Vehicle) Infrastructure grant, which is \$2.5 million, \$250,000.00 per facility for municipalities which include counties, villages and towns and the other being a rebate program called Charged Ready which is for public and private organizations. She stated there is interest from the County Executive's Office in installing EV charging stations on county-owned properties. As all of this has been going on, the Planning Department has been researching a white paper to determine where installing these charging stations would make sense as well as take a look at it on a county-wide basis and identify where the parcels would be. The idea being they would have a plan behind the grant application. She asked Zachary Coleman to explain what the research has shown and where they are at this point in the plan.

Mr. Coleman presented the committee with a power point presentation (see original minutes) called Orange County Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Study which included Growing Demand, Orange County EVSE Infrastructure, EVSE Technologies, Costs, Where do they make sense?, OC Planning PEVCS Tools, PEVCS Tool Result, Next Steps, and Available Programs and Resources.

Mr. Minuta stated this is a preliminary phase; therefore, they need to identify a plan and identify the locations. He thinks they should get involved and get ahead of this, but first he would like to see a plan including the costs.

Ms. Richmond explained this is a draft and there is a grant application that has a rolling deadline, but only until May of 2020 or until the funding runs out which is their next step. They did the research and developed a tool so now they can determine a plan of where the charging stations should go on a county-wide basis along with the costs as well as the user costs which would go into a grant application. She added they spoke with the Department of Public Works and will be speaking with the Law Department to try and get everyone in the county who is involved to become engaged from the beginning.

Mr. Minuta asked what the exact deadline date is.

Ms. Richmond replied May 29th.

Mr. Minuta pointed out that this committee will be meeting quarterly and asked how early they can get this information in order to meet the deadlines.

Ms. Richmond replied this preliminary plan took a long time, but now that they have the tools up and running, they will be able to tell the committee within a few weeks which county locations make sense.

Mr. Minuta stated he is looking for recommendations as to where the charging stations should be so the committee can move this forward.

Mr. Church mentioned they could take the map tool and filter county properties through it. He then asked if people would be charged if there was a charging station here or would they plug in for free.

Mr. Minuta replied that as a county, there should be charging stations since it is a public building, but they also must make sure it is not an added cost to the county.

Mr. Coleman stated he will take a deeper look into the economic aspects of this.

Mr. Minuta suggested they charge the people who need to use the charging stations.

Ms. Schmidt pointed out that if the cost is 80%, it does not include the maintenance problem which was a problem years ago and would be a cost to the county.

Mr. Coleman explained it is an opportunity now to understand where they need to be, where they can be installed and to understand if you own it, you can dictate, but where that goes from there, he does not know.

Mr. Minuta asked the committee who would like to see a charge to the end user.

Mr. Church replied that they should charge because the charging stations always manages the usage.

Mr. Benton and Mr. Lujan agreed.

Mr. Benton commented that when the Government Center was being built, he suggested that the wiring for a charging station should be put in the ground so the parking lot would not have to be dug up and that did not happen.

Mr. Minuta stated that at the next meeting, he would like to see a business plan that includes where the locations are, what are the costs, how will the users be charged, and if there is a negotiated rate with the electric company.

Mr. Coleman pointed out that one of their next steps is a map of the specific locations for each municipality and make it available to the public.

Mr. Minuta asked that Ms. Richmond get a deadline date so that the committee can meet before all the information is due and they can move forward.

Ms. Richmond asked when the next committee meeting will be held.

Mr. Benton replied they would have to meet in April since this would need to go to the full legislature.

Mr. Minuta stated the committee meets quarterly but can meet earlier to get this moving.

Mr. Church addressed the next agenda item which was an update/discussion on LEED for Cities and Communities Certification as a pilot program. He explained Ms. Schmidt has been leading some of this work and will summarize the details, they have had significant progress and are in good shape. They are working on enough credits to be certified.

Mr. Minuta asked if anyone in the Planning Department is LEED certified.

Mr. Church replied no, but the Green Building Council expects that someone in the system is certified.

Mr. Minuta stated there are several different levels of LEED certification such as new buildings and existing buildings.

The committee continued discussion regarding certification and having someone in their department getting certified.

Mr. Minuta asked what the pilot program offers.

Mr. Church replied the county does not have to pay for certification or technical support.

Mr. Luján asked what needs to be done in order to keep this certification.

Mr. Church replied there will be similarities to certifications for individuals and buildings. If Orange County would like to do this from now on, a check would have to be written in order to participate.

Mr. Minuta asked if there is an active building project in mind.

Mr. Church replied no, there are county-wide activities planned.

Ms. Schmidt stated there are county-wide activities that are exterior, meaning outside of the building such as the Comprehensive Plan, green spaces, pollution reduction, transportation, water efficiency, greenhouse gases, waste performance, and quality of life, etc.

Mr. Minuta asked if how many people hours are being utilized to collect data and is there compensation or reimbursement for collecting data.

Ms. Schmidt replied a lot of the data was already available, so it was hard to get in a form they wanted it in. She stated this was recently done on a State level with the Climate Smart Communities.

The last agenda was a brief update/discussion regarding Pilot for Farmer's Market composting.

Ms. Schmidt explained that she has been working with Mr. Siljkovic who led this over the summer along with the Department of Aging, Department of Health, and RECAP in Middletown and Newburgh. They had one leading volunteer who was able to be present and help them. For several years, Mr. Siljkovic has been selling compost containers and now they were able to sell them at a farmer's market as well as educate about it. She added they sold aerators, countertop composters and a few other devices. While educating, they asked for pledges to commit to this. Furthermore, from July to November they were able to get 6 1/2 tons. Regarding new business, she stated that Orange County just signed with Heat Smart which is a program similar to Solarize that provides discounted air exchange and HVAC equipment from a vetted NYSERTA contractor. This is countywide so any municipality can benefit. Finally, the EPA came back with the landfill report which has been forwarded to the Department of Public Works for review.

Before adjourning, Mr. Luján emphasized the need for the county to take the lead initiative regarding banning styrofoam and plastic bags.

Mr. Minuta stated this committee is to get a better understanding about the green building infrastructure.

Mr. Luján responded that he understands but there should be some sort of policy in place to enact the changes being made across the county and we should make sure that any changes meet the levels for grants that can be received.

Mr. Minuta stated he is looking forward to further discussion on green building initiatives throughout the county at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.