

**GREEN COMMITTEE
AGENDA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019
2:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kathy A. Stegenga, Chairwoman
Leigh J. Benton, Barry J. Cheney, Kevindaryán Luján,
David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department

Chairwoman Stegenga opened the committee meeting at 2:04 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Ms. Stegenga stated this is an open agenda because she would like to get brought up to speed and where the committee left off in December. She asked Mr. Cheney where the committee stands regarding the WaterSense Program.

Mr. Cheney replied that the county is a member of the program through the Orange County Water Authority, so there was a question as to whether there is a need for redundancy, or it is left in the hands of the Water Authority.

Ms. Stegenga clarified that the Orange County Water Authority was supposed to report back to the committee with more information and then asked if it is something that should be further discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Church stated that is correct and it can be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

Ms. Stegenga reiterated that this meeting is a refresher course on the progress of certain things that have happened within the last four to six months and where the committee would like to go with them.

Mr. Church stated that next month they can review what the Orange County Water Authority has done and bring in an educator to speak.

Ms. Stegenga asked for an update on O.C. Landfill Solar.

Ms. Schmidt replied that as of today, the checklist is complete, and the EPA should be visiting and doing their assessment in early to mid-March. She asked if the committee members would like to be invited once there is a set date.

Committee members agreed that they would like an invite.

The next topic she would like an update on is Orange County Green Office Practices.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she will reach out to Commissioner Burpoe before the March committee meeting.

Mr. Cheney suggested that someone from the Planning Department and someone from the IT Department come to a committee meeting rather than come separate.

Ms. Schmidt commented that there are a few things that the county cannot do, to save energy such as computer use and efficiency due to upgrades, but she will talk with them about printers and cartridges.

Mr. Church stated they will get in sync and then address the committee in March or April.

Regarding the Climate Smart Communities Program, Mr. Church explained that the county is certified, however, it has to be renewed which they are working on. The County Planning Board is now the Task Force for the Climate Smart Communities Program, so they have worked on prioritizing and there are no concerns getting recertified.

Ms. Schmidt distributed a handout regarding points that the county gets and reviewed it (see original minutes).

Mr. Cheney clarified that the county is comfortable recertifying and achieving the bronze level.

Ms. Schmidt stated that is correct.

Mr. Cheney then asked what the renewal period is.

Ms. Schmidt replied it is five years.

Mr. Lujan pointed out that a lot of items discussed on the list are straw and polystyrene ban. He stated that similar resolutions have been passed regarding the ban in Dutchess County as well as Ulster County and he personally feels that it would be a great move for Orange County and contribute to the point system. Furthermore, the plastic bag initiative is also another way to get points.

Ms. Stegenga stated that she believes this is something being addressed at a State level.

Ms. Schmidt responded that only the plastic bag ban is being addressed at the State level. She then reiterated what the committee has previously discussed so that Ms. Stegenga would be up to date.

The committee continued to discuss the plastic bag ban and the pros and cons of it.

Ms. Stegenga suggested that Ermin Siljkovic, Recycling Coordinator, Environmental Facilities and Services, address the committee next month to further discuss the ban and the impact it has on transfer stations and communities. She stated that it would help if the committee members also did a little research so that the committee can be a step ahead of the State. She then asked Mr. Church if there is an update on EV Charging Stations.

Mr. Church stated that the Power Authority has a contractor on site because SUNY Orange has proposed that the charging stations be inside the parking garage of both campuses. SUNY Orange is on schedule for installation this spring and will be responsible for maintenance.

Ms. Stegenga asked how many cars are registered in Orange County that would utilize the charging stations.

Mr. Church replied that he will find out how many electric cars there are in the county. He stated that there was an analysis done a while back that showed where the charging stations are located and where they should be located. One obvious place to have charging stations is here at the Government Center.

Mr. Benton commented that before this building was built, there was a discussion on putting in a wire underground for charging stations in the future.

Ms. Stegenga asked that Mr. Church bring an updated map to the next month's meeting as well as an update on where SUNY Orange stands with the installation of the charging stations.

Mr. Church stated that he will ask the Department of Public Works for a map of this parking lot so the committee can see where the charging stations should have been.

Mrs. Bonelli clarified that there is a grant for the charging station for SUNY Orange.

Mr. Church stated that is correct.

Mrs. Bonelli asked if there is a grant to pursue if the Government Center decided to put charging stations in the parking lot.

Mr. Church replied yes.

Mr. Cheney stated the grant would be 75%.

Mr. Lujan commented that the committee has discussed Repair Café a few times and he would like to point out that the City of Newburgh will be hosting its first one this Saturday, March 2nd from 12-4 p.m. at Great Works on Broadway near the Ritz Theater.

Mr. Church stated that the Community Room downstairs is open for use but not used much, so he suggested that it could be used for a Repair Café for Goshen.

Mr. Lujan suggested that another location would be the Great Hall at the Orange County Community College campus in Newburgh.

Ms. Stegenga asked that this be further discussed at next month's meeting.

The next agenda item was a brief discussion regarding 2019 New Business.

Mr. Church stated that more data is needed for Energy Benchmarking in order to move forward in order to meet Local Law 4 of 2017. Another item which is unrelated is research he was asked to do for the Town of Chester on the potential financial flow of the Community Preservation

Act. This is the Real Estate Transfer Tax that can be collected and used to protect land and environmental purposes, but state authorization is needed. He added that this is a green issue that should be researched countywide.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the county does not get any financial benefits.

Mr. Church replied that the county could pursue it, take it to the voters and make a plan or the obstacle can be removed and go to Albany for permission town by town, but it would still be up to each town to do a plan and take it to the voters. He stated that this is a topic that will come up again because the Town of Chester is serious.

Mr. Cheney asked if other counties have done this.

Mr. Church replied that Westchester County and Suffolk County got special authorization.

Mr. Benton asked if the monies come from real estate tax.

Mr. Church replied yes, it comes from real estate transfer tax.

Ms. Stegenga stated that she will get a copy from Warwick, so the committee look it over.

Mr. Church asked Mr. Cheney if the Town of Warwick had to come to the county for a supporting resolution.

Mr. Cheney replied no, he does not think so.

Ms. Stegenga stated that they will discuss this further next month as well as Refrigerant Management.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.