

**GREEN COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018  
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry Cheney, Chair  
Leigh J. Benton, Kevindaryan Lujan, David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department  
Kelly Morris, Planner, Planning Department  
Ermin Siljkovic, Recycling Coordinator, Environmental Facilities & Services  
K.T. Tobin, Ph.D, Associate Director, The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at  
SUNY New Paltz

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 2:21 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Tautel who was absent.

Mr. Siljkovic stated that in 2016 he applied for the Smart Communities grant is a program about environmental conservation to build a composting facility. The grant was for \$510,986.00 over five years. Some of the line items in the grant include a consultant to help design the facility, one staff person, a front-end loader and special equipment for the composting. They have since gone to contract and have been in the process of planning the facility. An RFP was submitted for review in December of 2017 but it is held up.

Mr. Cheney asked who has the contract.

Mr. Siljkovic replied that the contract is in the Law Department.

Mr. Cheney clarified this is the RFP for the consultant, not the contract.

Mr. Siljkovic stated that is correct. He continued to say that he has had a few discussions with Mr. Mahoney regarding this because it is complex and there were a few design issues. Furthermore, he is awaiting the release of the RFP so they can start designing the facility and moving forward.

Mr. Cheney asked if the costs that are currently being expended will be recovered by grant funds once they get a contract.

Mr. Siljkovic replied yes, he has been diligent about that.

Mr. Benton asked what kind of special equipment is needed.

Mr. Siljkovic replied it is a system of forced air that will be less labor intensive.

Ms. Morris asked what will happen with the compost and if it will be sold.

Mr. Siljkovic replied he is hoping to sell the compost to consumers.

**The next agenda item was regarding Repair Café – County hosting/sponsorship.**

Ms. Morris stated they are going to try and use the community room but Ms. Schmidt will discuss the delay.

Ms. Schmidt explained that it does not seem like there is a formal protocol on who can use the community room. She was told to wait and they would let her know.

Mr. Lujan clarified that there have not been any further updates.

Ms. Schmidt stated that is correct and part of it is finding fixers.

Mr. Lujan stated that a few local places in Newburgh are working on hosting a repair café so he is hoping it moves forward.

**The committee further discussed the Repair Café and how to get more communities involved.**

Mr. Church addressed the next agenda item regarding the status report on County Climate Adaptation Strategy by introducing K.T. Tobin, Associate Director, The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz and stated that the county received a Climate Smart Communities grant.

Ms. Tobin explained that there are three parts to this project; a county-wide natural resource inventory, climate volatility assessment and adaptation strategies. The county did a unique NRI project and what is unique about the project is it is being done at the watershed level. There are eight major watersheds in Orange County and are grouped into three categories.

Ms. Morris pointed out that there will be a presentation given to the legislature in the fall.

The next agenda item was a brief discussion regarding Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) – Financing Opportunity.

Mr. Church stated that Orange County was the first county to join an inter-municipal agreement called the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) and with that, a mutual agreement was signed offering a Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE). This would allow borrowing funds to certain thresholds and circumstances such energy improvements but not for commercial properties, only limited residential. The monies would be paid back as a line in the department tax bill. He reviewed a short guide (see original minutes) which included the amendments to the PACE Law and the next steps for EIC members. Furthermore, legislative approval will be needed to update this policy at a future date as he is just received a draft resolution.

Mrs. Reed clarified that this is the entity that the county transferred the authority to bond projects.

Mr. Church stated that is correct and he will send Mrs. Reed all the information. He added that after looking this over, it will require approval.

Mr. Cheney pointed out that he can present this at the Rules Committee meeting next month.

The last agenda item was a discussion regarding SUNY Orange EV Charging Stations.

Mr. Church stated that they could not get anywhere with the Law Department because there was an issue with the Power Authority's standard contract; therefore, it has been delayed for over a year. Finally, about 90 days ago, they got the Power Authority to agree with the concept that SUNY O.C.C.C. could acquire the equipment and the county would reimburse the college and in return the county would be reimbursed by New York State for the grant. The grant covers 100% of the equipment and warranty costs which SUNY will install. He added that the SUNY O.C.C.C. is going to the Power Authority to acquire the equipment and the county will reimburse the college as soon as a receipt is received. There is progress and he will keep the committee updated.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.