Town of Boone
Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual
Thursday, April 3rd, 2024
5:30 P.M.

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Members Present: Chair Brian Crutchfield, Vice Chair Jennifer Maxwell, Member Georgia Arnold, Member Joan Brook, Member Michael Weiss, Member Evan Flaherty, Member Bhuwan Thapa, Member Ryan Robinson, and Member Becca Nenow

Members Absent: Member Joey Crews

Staff Present: George Santucci, Sustainability and Special Projects Manager and Laney Wise, Grants Coordinator/Communications

Council Liaison: Absent

Others Present: None

## Call To Order:

Chair Crutchfield called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

## Adoption of Agenda:

Chair Crutchfiled asked for an amendment to the agenda to move item New Business before Old Business on the agenda and move B. before A.. Hearing no comments, Chair Crutchfield requested a motion to approve the amended agenda. Upon the motion Member Weiss, seconded by Vice Chair Maxwell, the motion passed unanimously

## Approval of February 7, 2024 Sustainability Committee Minutes:

Chair Crutchfield requested a motion to approve the February 7th, 2024 Sustainability Committee meeting minutes as presented. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Brooks, the February 7th, 2024 Sustainability Committee meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

## New Business: Discussion Around Energy Efficiency Programs and Tax Rebates:

Member Weiss gave a presentation regarding energy efficiency programs and tax rebates. After giving the presentation, Member Weiss expressed that he felt that the Sustainability Committee could have subgroups dedicated to items such as energy efficiency and weatherization. Mr. Santucci explained that two committee members could be on a subcommittee with the current Sustainability Committee charter. However, he explained that the Committee could vote to revise the charter to expand the quorum number to five instead of three. He went on to say that if approved, the change to the charter would need to go to the Boone Town Council for approval. A discussion was held regarding the current quorum limit and the need for subcommittees. Ms. Wise noted that the subcommittees could not meet until the Town Council approved the change of the charter. Member Robinson then made the motion to amend the current charter to increase the quorum limit to five members. Upon the motion of Member Robinson, seconded by Member Flaherty, the motion to amend the charter to increase the quorum limit to five passed unanimously.

Chair Crutchfield then appointed the Energy Efficiency Subcommittee with the following members: Member Weiss acting as chairman of the subcommittee, Vice Chair Maxwell, Member Thapa, and Member Brook. Mr. Santucci reminded the Committee that they could not meet as a subcommittee until the Boone Town Council approved the amendment to the charter. Chair Crutchfield then asked for a motion to approve the appointments to the Energy Efficiency Subcommittee, with a meeting time pending based on the Boone Town Council's vote regarding the amendment to the charter. Upon the motion of Member Weiss, seconded by Member Brook, the motion passed unanimously.

## New Business: Committee Support for a Grant to Expand the Skatepark

Ms. Wise began by giving a brief overview of the Boone Greenway Skatepark. She explained that the Town of Boone, in partnership with J.P. Pardy at Recess Skate and Snow, are applying for the PARTF grant through the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Fund. She went on to say that skateboarding helps the Town of Boone reach the goals laid out within the Boone Community Climate Action Plan, as skateboarding is a non-emitting form of transportation. With the addition of Phase II of the Boone Greenway Skatepark, younger skaters are able to learn more about skating in a safe environment and older skaters are encouraged to ride more using the Greenway Trail to access their destinations. Ms. Wise then explained that she was not coming to the Committee for funding of this project, as the Town of Boone and private residents have helped provide the match for this grant, she was presenting to the Committee to gain support. She went on to say that the Sustainability Committee is the acting Parks and Recreation Committee, as the Town of Boone does not have a designated Parks and Recreation Committee. Chair Crutchfield expressed support for the skatepark expansion and the application for the PARTF grant. He then asked if there was any concerns from Committee members regarding the proposed grant application and project. Hearing none, he asked for a motion of support for the project. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Robinson, the motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business: Earth First Friday and Film Fest:

Mr. Santucci shared with the Committee the upcoming events for April; Earth Third Friday and the Boone Earth Film Fest. He reminded the Committee members to follow the Town of Boone on social media to learn more about the upcoming events.

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## Old Business: Solar Project @ Clawson-Burnley Park & Haven Solar Picnic Shelter @ Jones House:

Mr. Santucci gave the Committee members an update regarding the Solar Project and the Clawson-Burnley Park and the Haven Solar Shelter at the Jones House. He explained that the solar array at the Clawson-Burnley Park was almost complete, and will be used as an educational piece for the community. He went on to say that the Haven Solar Picnic Shelter is expected to be installed by Earth Third Friday. The Committee expressed support for everything that Mr. Santucci and Town staff have accomplished.

## Other Matters:

Chair Crutchfield asked if there were other matters the Committee would like to discuss. Hearing none, he moved to the next item.

## Public Comment:

Chair Crutchfield asked if there were any in attendance that would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

## Adjournment:

The Sustainability Committee unanimously at 7:30 p.m..

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