

**MINUTES
DOWNINGTOWN BOROUGH
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 22, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The Sustainability Advisory Committee monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was held in the Annex Building at Borough Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Caroline O'Connor
Susan McCreadie
Suzanne Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Ms. O'Connor notified the members that Ms. Val Connors has resigned from the committee. She also announced that there was an inquiry from a resident about membership. She is corresponding with them via the SAC email.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MINUTES – The approval of the September minutes was postponed until the December meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION –

▪ **2023 Meeting Schedule**

The committee discussed the meeting schedule for 2023. It was determined that in order to make more progress the committee would meet twice a month, on the first and third Thursday of each month, as necessary, with the exception of the first Thursday in January because of attendance availability. Ms. Webster motioned to approve the meeting schedule, Ms. McCreadie seconded, passed 3-0.

▪ **2023 Goals and Initiatives**

The committee reviewed the initiatives that were formed in 2022 to narrow down the focus for 2023 and come up with achievable goals based on the size of the committee.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

The committee discussed the progress CCA was making with other Boroughs in the area. The CCA for PA Working Group forwarded an MOU to be able to work with Downingtown on this initiative, but Ms. O'Connor felt like the Borough was not ready for that. The committee agreed to see how it plays out with the other leading Boroughs first to see what the challenges and benefits are. Ms.

Webster agreed with this approach stating that she had questioned the validity of the initiative with the Philadelphia Energy Co-op, and she still has outstanding questions with CCA for PA. Ms. O'Connor will alert the CCA for PA Working Group that we are still interested, but we will not be one of the leading Boroughs.

EV Charger

The committee discussed the possibility of installing an EV charger on a Borough owned property. Ms. O'Connor said she had experience with this kind of project in another municipality. She discussed the logistics of that project, and also reminded the committee that there is a grant available for this kind of project which may make it more attractive to Borough Council. Borough Council had also seemed very receptive to this idea when it was presented at their meeting. The committee decided that this is the project they will work on in the first quarter of 2023. Ms. O'Connor will bring planning materials to the next meeting to get started.

Light Pollution

The committee presented their concerns about light pollution to Borough Council at a previous 2022 meeting. The goal of the committee is to not only reduce the amount of energy the Borough is using by eliminating the wasted light that is not being directed towards the ground, but also to help preserve dark skies for the benefit of nature and natural habitats. Ms. Webster shared her experience with her participation on the Dark Skies Committee and stated that she is interested in doing more with that committee, on her own, in the new year. As the goals of the SAC align with the Dark Skies Committee, the members agreed to review more concrete ways the Borough can reduce energy use from lighting sources in the second quarter in 2023.

Energy Transition Plan (ETP)

The committee discussed the draft ETP that was prepared by members of the Sierra Group. Ms. O'Connor stated that the draft plan still needed to be revised and edited to create a concise and implementable plan for the Borough. She mentioned that she is currently volunteering as the Borough Planning Commission liaison for the Comprehensive Plan rewrite project that will be starting in January 2023. Ms. O'Connor will review the draft plan and work with the Borough consultant to have details of the ETP incorporated into the comp plan. The scope of the comp plan had already added a section for sustainability so it will tie in nicely with the overall agenda.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER –

Ms. McCreadie said she had been in touch with the gentleman who runs the “Repair Café” in Phoenixville. This group offers low cost or free repair services for household items. By repairing them, it encourages reuse of items, and reduces waste. He has been interested in getting something in the Downingtown area. Ms. McCreadie will let us know when they have an event date.

Ms. O'Connor reminded everyone that the Downingtown Borough Holiday Party for volunteers is on Thursday, December 15 from 6:00-8:00 at Victory Brewing Company. Please RSVP to Val DiLuigi, either way, as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 7:00pm at Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Caroline O'Connor

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