



Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

24 Canoe Lane – Public Safety Training Facility

October 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present

Chairman Newman, Commissioner Wells, Commissioner Sloan, Maggie Ullman, Jamie Ager, Lena Hanson

Staff Members Present

Sybil Tate, Jeremiah LeRoy, Jennifer Harrison, Ashley Featherstone, Mike Mace, Brad Watt, Amanda Stratton

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from September 17, 2021
- Chairman Newman moved to approve the minutes and Maggie Ullman provided a second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Clean energy financing (PACE)/Solar RFP Updates

- Jeremiah LeRoy provided an overview of commercial PACE program and discussion was had about whether to help build coalition around the state legislation that would create a state program for commercial PACE
 - There's a window that will close for local governments to create a district for this program per the 2009 legislation; could go ahead and create a district
 - Will hold a special meeting with Michael Frue to do a Q&A about the barriers to C-PACE program
 - Post documents from City of Asheville, City of Charlotte, memo from Buncombe County Legal and other relevant documents to County website
- Discussion about barriers for commercial solar and how to make it more accessible
- Would like to hear about economic development and new construction tools for increasing solar
 - Bring in Tim Love for a meeting to go over Economic Development policy
- Discussion about making a recommendation to the comprehensive plan committee about what policies/tools this committee would like to see adopted as part of the comp plan process

Priority Setting Follow-up

- Would like to set aspirational goals for each focus area and then discuss what resources would be needed to accomplish those

Future Agendas Items Discussion

- November: solid waste programing
- December: Ag & Land and Sustainability budget overview/wish list
- January: goal setting

Land Conservation Funding

- Trust for Public Land has offered to do a feasibility analysis for the county on the level of public buy-in for funding of green infrastructure.



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- Jamie Ager moved for this subcommittee to recommend the full county commission sign the letter agreeing to work with the Trust for Public Land; Commissioner Wells provided a second. The full subcommittee approved.

Tour of the Solar Farm and Future Site of County Garage

- Staff and members of the subcommittee toured the construction site for the solar farm on the old landfill and the future site of the Buncombe County garage.

Adjourn

Documents

- Presentation
- September 17 Minutes
- Letter to the Trust for Public Land