



**TOWN OF HARRISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA
HARRISBURG TOWN HALL
SUSTAINABILITY BOARD MEETING**

**August 10, 2022
6:30 PM**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. This meeting will be held in person in Town Hall Council Chambers and virtually via the Zoom platform

HSAB members in attendance - in person: Scott Noel, Scott Crew, Faith Silva, Tim Thorton, Ken Kuster; virtually: Michelle Abbott, Kez Hubler

Town Council and staff: Rodney Dillinger, Ian Patrick, Lee Connor

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

B. AGENDA ADOPTION:

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

There were no special presentations for this meeting

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time

2. CONSENT AGENDA

No minutes to post from last meeting

3. COUNCIL UPDATES

A. Updates from any Town Council and staff in attendance

Lee Conner stated:

- April Corley will be back remote starting next week part-time Jamie is still doing social media until April is fully back
- Sept 1st or 8th for meetings with dept heads as possibilities
- Reminder please run all requests through Lee Connor (with some caveats that we'll work through identifying with Lee)

Council member Dillenger stated:

- Town council meeting update: Stallings road set to open Sat Aug 13th
- Next roundabout will start to have construction as soon as the above one is done may close road for 10 days
- Wants to discuss extreme rain events – encourage the town to encourage developers to not clear cut and to keep heritage trees
- Scott stated that this is all on our radar and we plan on putting members of our board as liaisons to town groups to help keep these thoughts in the forefront
- On the rewrite of the UDO, it has some improvements on it to include heritage trees
- No more room on the planning and zoning board: Scott to check with Bill Leake (former HSAB member) - he previously submitted an application

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Arbor Day Tree Giveaway: Ken Huster. Executing Fall 2022. Any updates, needs, or next steps.

Ken stated: Faith and Ken met with the arbor day group to get up to date on where we stand

- We need to fill out the onboarding form asap in order to get the website up and running by this Friday
 - Per Arbor Day Foundation:
 - **Aug: Complete planning for anticipated launch in first of September**
 - **Sept: Launch project portal for tree reservations by residents**
 - **Oct: Tree distribution via mail or event**
- Ken, Faith, Crew, and Scott will meet to iron out any last minute details
- We'll work with April and Jamie on communications; and possibly IT (James/Diego) if needed for website support; and keep Lee Connor informed - Lee will follow up with Brian Lee (Finance) about executing the approved Cannon Foundation \$5000 grant
- Lee added that now is a perfect time because we have 2 people doing social media
- HSAB will give talking points for town members to discuss during the next town hall meeting

B. Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Stream Programs: HSAB lead

Kez updates:

- Reached out to Tractor Supply again with no response.
- Will email Wayne to invite him in
- Kez spoke with Shawn and stated that the toppers for the recycle bins and said it needs to be two arms- large events and day to day
- Shawn will continue to speak with Waste Pro to make sure they are doing proper recycling
- Shawn will talk to Lee about having toppers on day to day
- Parks and rec maintenance is the person who handles all of the permanent recycle bins
- Terracycle comes and handles all paper recycling with town hall
- Lee will follow up with that

C. Public Education on Social Media:

Faith stated: No new news

D. Water and Sewer Utility eBilling Campaign:

Michelle stated: there are no new updates and we need to follow up on this offline

E. Creation of sustainability best practices for town departments

Scott N stated:

- We will try and get a few members to come to a town meeting
- We would like to get board members put in with town boards as an advisory

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. More extreme rain events and flooding expected in NC

Scott N shared the following article with the group

[North Carolina's future includes more extreme rainfall - Axios Raleigh](#)

Scott N stated:

- Gary Lackmann NC professor that we might want to have come speak about severe weather in NC
- The town of Cary is using tech to manage flow and predict where flooding might occur
- Flood should be monitored on a 5-10 year level instead of a 100 year level
- This is something as a town that we should be working on proactively instead of reactive (UDO, infrastructure, etc)
- Rodney added that even some of the work that happens in Charlotte affects us “downstream”
- Can [Centralina Regional Council](#) help us with this?
- Ian added that the mayor is the liaison for Centralina Regional Council - HSAB should contact the mayor about possible options/next steps/resources available.
- Conservation District is there to serve a purpose: Collaborate with planning and zoning, UDO, director, consultant (Zach), etc. to educate Council and staff about the benefits of Conservation Districts

ChargePoint Town Hall charging station:

- The town hall charger has been down for a couple of 0months
- How do we help potentially monitor this?
- Charge Point was sending notifications to no one in particular, that has since been fixed by putting George as the point person
- ETA on fixes for the charging station- Lee will look into this
- Scott Noel and Scott Crew to provide the Town with copy they post of the PlugShare and ChargePoint apps related to the station being down

B. Recent and Relevant Sustainability News:

Faith stated: The NCUC (North Carolina Utilities Commission) asked Duke energy to put forth some options on how they might meet the goals put forth by Gov Cooper in HB951. They brought forth 4 plans. We are thankful to them for putting forth a good effort but unfortunately, none of the plans are good enough. Out of all four plans, only P1 meets the emission reduction goals for the 2030 date.

Michelle added that it is not as easy as black and white and that there are areas that are not as easy to meet these goals because of affordability.

Lee stated that there is no real go-between between the town and Duke energy.

6. ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

A. Proposal to optimize HSAB role, efficiency, and effectiveness:

Scott N stated: We would like to set forth some new proposals on how we move forward as a board.

- Give autonomy to board members to move forward in an advisory role
- Scott asked Lee if we can make some changes to Civic Clerk to streamline this process
- Lee stated that having him in HSAB meetings helps because there is no middle man, town staff doesn't even have time to do core work so we want to make sure that there is no extra work
- Maybe have a liaison from the group join different town groups so we can occasionally advise that group on sustainable practices.
- Lee stated: we need to weave sustainability into the work that the town does
- Ken stated that we want to be a help and not a burden to the town
- Rodney stated that we still have not given the main 4 items that we wanted to "offer" to the town (ex. EV vehicles, Arbor day, etc)
- Tim agreed that the board volleys a lot of ideas but we don't execute. We have one quarter left and we need to focus on one or two things.
- Scott N agreed that we also need support from the town staff, but noted that we as an ADVISORY Board really should be getting information first from the Town to better understand their top priorities (and processes) so we can align our Board to those and then identify possible additional opportunities
- Town managers will give updates and challenges during the Sept meeting, 2-3 HSAB members will introduce ourselves, the concept of sustainability, and share examples/opportunities on how we may best be able to add value and efficiencies...not create more work. What can we offer to the departments?
- Lee would like to continue being a part of these meetings to make sure that we are moving forward
- Manager weekly meeting options for HSAB to attend: 10:30-12 on the 1st or the 8th
- Tim added that we need to make sure that we as volunteers can't burden the town staff with all of our ideas and help

B. Future Special Presentations:

Scott stated: If the town has any presentations or if the board has any possible presentation

- Possibly have Arbor Day Foundation come to speak in Sept.

C. Sustainability Show & Tell:

- Tim brought in bird houses and feeders that are built with recycled materials and are made in the US. Using fewer wood feeders; started using eco materials, this doesn't always work for some species of birds for houses (e.g. owls and woodpeckers don't like the plastic), but does work with feeders. His company also uses biodegradable plastic bags.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Town of Harrisburg's Vision Statement

Harrisburg will be the best small town in North Carolina based on low density housing, excellent economic opportunities, a safe living environment, and efficient and effective municipal services. Amenities such as excellent recreational programs, adequate open space, attractive shopping opportunities, a diversity of restaurants, and a connected system of roadways, sidewalks, greenways, and bicycle lanes will continue to enhance the quality of life of the Town. These services and amenities will be provided while retaining reasonable tax rates and debt levels.