



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

**September 14, 2022
6:30 PM**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82909751722?pwd=RXk2bXpFRUVPUk1LSVVvSjJubkpadz09>

In Attendance: Scott Noel, Scott Crew, Faith Silva, Michelle Abbott, Kez Hubler, Ken Huster, Vince Houston, Rodney Dilinger, Lee Connor

In Attendance Virtually: Ian Patrick

B. AGENDA ADOPTED - 6:35 pm

C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None at this time

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - None at this time

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from HSAB 8/10/22 meeting were approved at 6:36 pm

3. COUNCIL UPDATES

A. Updates from Town Council and Town staff in attendance

Rodney Dillinger - Promoted tree giveaway, congratulations to the HSAB for a successful event. Will there be another EV event this year? Scott answered no. Charlotte will be having one on Oct 1. Monday night Mallory presented that there is a grant in the spring on EVs. Scott recommended that we meet with staff to help with this. Harrisburg is looking into a lot of different grants. Ribbon cutting for the sheriff office and they have one EV. 6 additional Explorers have been ordered hybrids and flex fuels. Scott stated that police vehicle is not technically an EV, it is a hybrid, not a plug-in hybrid. Rodney was concerned if all of the emergency vehicles were all electric would they make it to the emergency or even multiple back to back. Ken asked why flex fuel, Lee said he wasn't sure, it came down from the sheriff's office. Ken warned that flex fuel could be a form of greenwashing if other forms of fuel are not used. Biodiesel is available in Charlotte as a possible alternative. Rodney stated we can continue this conversation as we move forward. Scott stated we can share information on the differences of fuels and EV vs hybrid, etc (follow up to come on that).

Rodney stated Gov removed emergency order for council to do business virtually, You can continue to do a zoom call but you can not be counted as a quorum. So to be part of the quorum and vote you must be in chambers.

Scott stated that we should continue to talk about greenwashing so that staff and town members know when it is happening.

Ian - nothing to state

Lee Connor - after the manager meeting sustainability practices have been brought up, how the town hall group can be more sustainable. Thanks to the Exec board for coming and meeting with town managers. Kez and Scott both do things like switching out office products. Lee stated that as the managers had a chance to meet with HSAB, Lee has come up with some ideas. He wants us to be as effective as possible. List of which HSAB members can provide us with assistance in key topics; direction from the Town Council of their priorities for the HSAB and staff. Faith stated she has already started creating this doc and will share as soon as it is ready. For instance hiring a sustainability manager or maybe staff focuses 20 hours a month on sustainability, etc. We need an updated priority from town council. We also need more public awareness and opportunities for them to show their support. Maybe presence at events, and such to promote sustainability to the Town. Get a focus on 2-3 things/projects a year. The Arbor Day program was a prime example of how the HSAB and the town can partner.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Arbor Day Foundation Tree Giveaway - This was a very successful event, trees were sold out in 24 hours. How can we get more funding next year, community fundraising or other grants. Ken said we should send out a survey on what people liked and didn't like about the giveaway. Rodney said budget starts in Dec, we should submit a request for next year by Jan 1 for another tree giveaway. Lee said we should be aware that we might not want to put all the money into trees in case there is another program we want to do. Ken wants Harrisburg to be a sustainability leader in our community..

Scott asked if we can get an HSAB volunteer to engage with the Cannon foundation. Ken said he can start that conversation. Lee stated we should check with the YMCA as well because they work with the Cannon foundation.

B. Explore Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Stream Programs: HSAB lead - Scott stated-Mallory is the director of Public Works and Engineering. How do we get this off the ground? Lee stated- What do you see as the end game on this? Is it to get engagement? Public education? Scott said all of those but also keeping waste out of water ways. Michelle stated it will also foster community pride. Kez stated- Are we good to proceed with this. She has all of the background info from Concord. She wants to get together with Mallory and Wayne to start. Lee asked if they can meet with him to discuss website integration and making a plan to move forward. Crew stated we might need to talk budget because Public Works might need to increase their budget for this program. Scott asked if we can use ConCORDS website and integrate our area with theirs. Lee said talk to Kevin Grant in Concord. Rodney stated- we need to come to these meetings with this information already, Scott stated the work has already been done we just need to meet with town staff to move forward

C. Water and Sewer Utility eBilling Campaign: Staff contact - Brian Lee (Finance). Need an HSAB lead contact. HSAB to help create and promote campaign for residents to move from paper to eBilling. Need clear, simple "how-to-enroll" process steps. Benefits: Cost savings for the Town and paper reduction; and opportunity to educate residents on W&S conservation and money saving tips.

Michelle stated that the ebilling site is not easy to sign up for. Lee stated the town is updating the website but it shouldn't affect e-billing and stated he remembered it being easy. Scott said our job should be educating

the community on this not changing the website. Lee said they need help from us on how to market this to the community. That is the big thing... like cost savings for the town. Michelle said she will take the lead on this and how to best market this. Brian Lee is ready to go. Michelle should come to Brian and Lee to start this marketing. Rodney said didn't the HSAB say they would create a video explaining how. Rodney said the HSAB should hold registration event where we help people sign up.

D. Toppers for Waste and Recycling Bins - Kez Hubler stated: Lee how are the toppers working. There are 3 recycle toppers at town hall as a test run. Lee said that he asked Jim with Parks and Rec and that the test, all recycle is being thrown in the trash because of contamination. Is there an effective way to stop this from happening? Toppers and signage are the way to go. Ken is going to make a template. Scott stated in the end recycling is not the answer, reducing is the answer which means more community education. Kez stated we need simple signage. Lee wants to add this to the meeting with Kez to talk signage.

E. HSAB engagement with & alignment with Town staff based on top priorities - Continue discussion and begin mapping out roles and the go-forward process, including possible HSAB member-alignment to Town departments and development of department best practices. Scott shared member bios and member contacts. Faith has created a google doc with everyone's area of expertise to share with Council and staff. Rodney said he would talk to Council about what their expectations are of HSAB. Scott stated that we need to talk to the UDO groups as well to add our expertise. Rodney said pick a few things, Faith said some of these things aren't events/programs we just need to have conversations to help the town and different depts. Ken said we are an advisory board not an action board. Scott said there are other ways to inform the community without us necessarily at a booth. Vince - stated that sustainability is a mindset. And we can do events to help educate the community but we can also help behind the scenes with economic benefits of sustainability. Lee stated that the HSAB needs to be patient with the Town because things can move slowly. Scott stated the Town has also had a lot of staffing turnover lately, which has slowed some things down related to the HSAB.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recent and Relevant Sustainability News: Members to share important information for everyone's awareness and future consideration of if/how our HSAB should engage Town staff, Town Council, other Boards, residents, businesses, schools, etc. related to these topics. - none today

6. ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

A. Future Special Presentations: HSAB members and Town liaison to discuss Town staff and outside organizations who could present relevant topics and possibly serve as Town/HSAB resources. - Scott asked if we could have Town staff come in and present so we can start a dialogue on how we can help. UDO would probably be a good first dept but he wants our list of who has what expertise. But regardless we need to make sure Council is on board. Scott also mentioned maybe Arbor Day can come do a presentation on how our tree giveaway went.

B. Sustainability Show & Tell: Brief round robin for HSAB members to share relevant products, services, technology, causes, etc. that they use/support.

C. October 12 HSAB meeting: Confirm member attendees - Scott Noel likely has a conflict.

Scott also raised canceling the December meeting but after further discussion, the Board

agreed it should be a budget meeting.

D. Took an HSAB group photo to be shared by the Town in the next newsletter.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 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.