

Green Committee Minutes

October 28, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Grattidge and Rowland; Dave Delozier, Saratoga Springs; Kate Maynard, Wilton Town Planner; Press.

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Veitch said at today's meeting we need to begin to put together recommendations for the Board of Supervisor's on what we think we can do now and projected out for five years or longer. Over the last eight months we have been going throughout the county and obtaining information from the experts in different fields and have learned a lot about what is out there, what we think we can do and we think we should probably do.

Mr. Grattidge recommended that Chairman Veitch go through all the material and separate out all the pertinent information that was learned and could be shared with the Board of Supervisors. There was certainly a lot that we learned that could be put in the form of a recommendation even if it wasn't something that applies to the county right now. The committee would then have to decide what they would like to look at for the long term.

Mr. Veitch said an idea that could be looked into right away would be photosensitive light switches, which are non-controversial and easy to do.

Mr. Delozier suggesting having an energy audit of the buildings and observing the buildings functions with regard to lighting, heat etc.

Mr. Rowland said if you begin to replace light switches and light fixtures in a more green kind of way then it would be a natural path to be more energy efficient. Mr. Rowland said, for instance, it might be prudent to look at lighting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building (5) on 50 West High Street with a solar panel set as the building already faces the proper orientation and has a roof structure that could handle the solar panels.

Mr. Grattidge said it makes sense to begin to do energy audits on buildings when the county can take advantage of NYSEDA programs or when it economically makes sense to begin to create a baseline. He suggested asking the building and maintenance department to begin reviewing deficiency in lighting. In the midterm a report will be received on 50 West High Street and a review of that report will take place. Under the long term, goals can be set as to how to redesign some of the deficiencies that are found.

Mr. Delozier said if grant money were received, the county could make the 50 West High Street building a model site for county government.

Mr. Rowland suggested that changing the County owned parking lot lights to LED lighting when existing lights burnout could be another cost saving idea. Mr. Veitch said the life expectancy of an LED light is approximately three times as long as a regular light bulb, which would result in a savings over the long term.

Mr. Delozier said an audit of the buildings would give a baseline of what exits and what would be the quickest changeover at minimal expense.

Mr. Veitch suggested presenting to the Board a list of Green ideas that might be implemented in the County now and into the future.

Mr. Veitch said he would draft an outline of ideas that have been discussed and distribute it to the Committee for their review.

The next meeting of the Green Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Committee Room.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Rowland the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom