

ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Town Hall Conference Room 201

September 12, 2023 – 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Smitherman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Kay Smitherman, Brittany Burke, Henry Fasler, Jennifer Haydon, Melody Joyner, Gretchen Roberts, Robert Smitherman, Town Manager James Ayers, and Public Works Director Jon Hanna. Alex Branower, Chelsea Blount, Barbara Hudgens, Jonathan Linck, and Emily Price were absent.
- II. **Agenda Approval** – Jennifer Haydon moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Brittany Burke and motion approved unanimously.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Gretchen Roberts moved to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Haydon and motion approved unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - a. Terracycle update – Animal Rescue of the Piedmont accepts empty medicine bottles and they will clean and reuse them.
 - b. Clean Sweep – The Beautification Committee will direct the Clean Sweep on October 21, 9AM-12 PM. Ages 16 and up are welcome to help and waivers will need to be signed. Regular collection bags will be used so that they are more visible and easier to handle by both those collecting trash along the road and those loading the bags at the end of the event. Manager Ayers stated the idea of using feed bags was great but, unfortunately, not fully practical.
 - c. October Special Recycling event – This fall Special Recycling event will be held October 28 at Shallowford Square, 9 AM-1PM. Setup will begin at 8 AM. Mrs. Smitherman has posted the event on the Crosby Scholars page and has also communicated with local Boy Scout troops about volunteering. Town staff will deliver any collected fluorescent bulbs to 3RC. All volunteers are encouraged to bring their own water bottle. A signup sheet with time slots will be available at the October meeting.
- V. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion of Resolution 2021051 – Supporting Clean Energy – Manager Ayers shared some of his concerns with Resolution 2021051 in terms of the context because the resolution says the Town “commits” to certain goals. He noted the State’s resolution says the State will “strive” for certain goals. There are fiscal ramifications to implement the current Town resolution. Planning would need to begin now and the plan incorporated into a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). If the Town’s resolution had said “strive,” the Town and committee would be meeting those goals. Manager Ayers and the committee discussed the thought process regarding the existing resolution and what the committee’s aspirations were at the time. Mrs. Smitherman explained that the committee makeup is different than in 2021. Her personal understanding was that the Town would use less and/or clean energy. With this in mind, she was thrilled when the solar plans were installed on the Mary Alice Warren Community Center (MAWCC). She believes the Town is doing a lot to reduce energy as well as use clean energy. The committee believes tangible reports to the community is informative. Such a report would be a before and after comparison of energy usage at MAWCC. The committee discussed their goals, aspirations and thoughts. The resolution will be discussed more at the October meeting. The committee will also consider establishing a subcommittee to meet twice a year with staff. Mrs. Smitherman will communicate with each member individually and compile those thoughts for the October meeting.

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**RESOLUTION 2021051 OF THE LEWISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
THE GOAL OF 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050**

WHEREAS, for many years, climate scientists have predicted that greenhouse gasses emitted by burning fossil fuels would increase the Earth's average temperatures and change its climate with dire consequences; and

WHEREAS, scientists have predicted that an increase in the average temperature is causing and will continue to cause major adverse impacts such as longer and more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, spread of infectious diseases, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, floods, wildfires, and more frequent extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, studies point to severe economic costs of climate change; and

WHEREAS, there are significant risks to counties and municipalities in North Carolina which will incur large, unpredictable costs adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, responsible planning requires that the Town begin to address the possible effects of climate change and support actions to mitigate those effects; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 80, North Carolina's Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy, " which states that North Carolina will honor the 2015 Paris Agreement goals and the State's commitment to the United States Climate Alliance, which requires the State to reduce its Green House Gas (GHG) emission to 50% below the 2005 levels by 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Lewisville commits to:

1. Achieving a goal of 50% clean and renewable energy for its operations by 2030, with a transition to 100% clean and renewable in all sectors by 2050;
2. Encouraging the larger community to strive toward a goal of 50% clean and renewable energy by 2030 with a transition to 100% clean and renewable in all energy sectors by 2050;
3. Incorporating complementary initiatives which reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
4. Promoting green job creation and economic growth;
5. Coordinating with other willing local governments and environmental groups to achieve the statewide goal of a transition to clean and renewable energy by 2050;

Adopted this the 12th Day of August, 2021 by the Lewisville Town Council.

- b. "Only Rain Down the Drain" workday – Mr. Hanna requested assistance with placing "Only Rain Down the Drain" stickers on storm drains in neighborhoods with curb and guttering on Town or state maintained streets, no private streets. An inventory of where these stickers are currently is being developed. He requested the members' help in identifying current locations and then helping to place additional where needed. A workday will be scheduled once the list is compiled.

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VI. Clerk Report

- a. The Lewisville Civic Club is hosting a Candidate Forum on October 19 at 7:30 PM at Town Hall in the Council Chambers. Municipal elections are November 7.
- b. The bottle filler unit has been received and will be installed this fall at Shallowford Square near the playground. It is hoped to have the unit installed by October 21.

VII. For the Good of the Order

- a. Manager Ayers noted there has been an inquiry about the efficiency of the MAWCC solar panels. To get a full picture, the Redwine Group has been contacted for their feedback in addition to the usage report and utility statements. Staff believes a full year of data is needed to get a true picture.
- b. Mrs. Haydon's homeowner's association is discussing whether solar panels on homes within their neighborhood should be permitted or not. Mrs. Haydon requested that a topic of how the committee members can support the Town's goals be placed on the October agenda.
- c. Piedmont Triad Regional Council's Stormwater Smart plans to be a part of the 2024 Earth Day. Save the dates will be sent to last year's Earth Day participants.
- d. Next regularly scheduled meeting: **October 10, 2023**

VIII. Adjournment – Having no further business to discuss, Jennifer Haydon moved to adjourn at 7:37 PM. The motion was seconded by Robert Smitherman and motion approved unanimously.

ATTEST:

Kay Smitherman, Chair

Dora K. Moore, Town Clerk