

Environmental Sustainability Committee

April 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dan Fogel, Rich Sampson, Dana Hicks, Anne Marie O'Neill, Tim Sanborn, Jeremy Shook, Diane McLaine, Priya Jayaram

Members Absent: Trisha Knight

Commissioners: Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Hunt (board liaison)

Staff: Bobby Williams, Assistant Town Manager (staff liaison)

Vice Chair Rich Sampson called meeting to order (3:32).

The March 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Anne Marie O'Neill that was seconded by Dana Hicks.

No agenda changes.

Public Comment, Requests and Presentations

Will and Astrid from Trane introduced themselves and shared that they were attending as staff from Trane, who services equipment on a number of town buildings. They expressed an interest to help the town be proactive with its HVAC maintenance and see how they can fit into the goals of the committee and town and help get us there. Additionally, they offered to be a resource to help benchmark energy use in buildings and help the committee with data to set goals.

New Business items:

Members introduced themselves and welcomed new members, Tim Sanborn, Diane McLaine and Priya Jayaram to the Environmental Sustainability Committee. Both Tim and Diane shared their previous service on the greenway committee and Priya shared her background managing projects.

The ESC purpose, duties and rules of procedure were reviewed with the committee (see powerpoint).

No changes were made to meeting date and time.

Discussion on chair was held until after discussion on subcommittees.

Discussion was had regarding the use and structure of subcommittees to help the ESC do its work. The idea is that subcommittees will dig into the details of specific topics between meetings and report out and lead discussions at high level at meetings.

Interest was expressed in seeing / hearing near term completion dates for committee goals so that action can be made within the next 12 months. Related to community education, it was suggested the inviting Shannon Binns of Sustain Charlotte as a speaker to share how they work to make an impact.

Diane McLaine shared her and Tim's experience on the greenway committee where they picked 3 goals and worked to accomplish them. Examples of potential goals could be starting wildlife corridors, creating a Treasure Trees program, getting more education out to neighborhoods, HOA's, etc.

To further assist subcommittees in their work, Anne Marie shared the Sustainability Framework from the Town of Davidson (handout was passed around to committee members, LINK to document online at <https://www.townofdavidson.org/DocumentCenter/View/11205/Sustainability-Framework>) as a way to look at priority areas and related action items. Dan Fogel reminded the committee that there needs to be a balance between the work of the committee and suggested goals from the Town Board.

Dan Fogel made motion to elect Jeremy Shook as chair and Rich Sampson as vice chair. Tim Sanborn seconded and motion carried unanimously.

After number of different ideas were shared and were grouped into three buckets with a goal of 3 people per committee. Subcommittees identified and member assignments/elections were as follows:

1. Community Engagement – Dan (Lead), Rich and Tim
2. Energy, Water and Waste – Jeremy (Lead), Dana and Priya
3. Environment and Infrastructure – Diane (Lead), Anne Marie, Tim and Trish (projected, based on previous committee input since she was absent from meeting).

Each subcommittee was then asked to meet as a team and discuss and develop 3 goals for the next year.

Going forward, new chair Shook asked for a section of the agenda to include an action item list for tracking items. The agenda will include an Action Item Review and status update each month. Similarly, Committee Reports will be given with action items going forward identified by each.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Jeremy Shook, seconded by Dan Fogel. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned.