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Christy Clark

Mayor Pro Tem
Jennifer Hunt

Commissioners
Scott Coronet
Edwin Quarles
LaToya Rivers
Heather Smallwood
Nick Walsh



Town Manager
Anthony Roberts

Deputy Town Manager
Jackie Huffman

Assistant Town Manager
Bobby Williams

Town Attorney
Emily Sloop

Town Clerk
Janet Pierson

AGENDA

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

July 9, 2026 - 3:30 PM

TOWN HALL (14704 N Old Statesville Road)

Town Board Liaison:

Advisory Board Members: Chair Diane McLaine, Vice-Chair Padma Priya Jayaram, Heiner Dornberg, Dana Hicks, Trisha Knight, Anne Marie O'Neill, Natalie Paavola, Tim Sanborn, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Hunt, Lisa Zelina

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - 2.A. June 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 3. Public Comments, Requests, or Presentations**
- 4. Business**
 - 4.A. Treasure Tree Criteria Next Steps
 - 4.B. Confirm September Recycling Center Visit
 - 4.C. Finalize Board Presentation - Confirm Date
 - 4.D. Neighborhood HOA Composting Interest
 - 4.E. Review Goals and Updates - Please update your subsection prior to the meeting for discussion.
- 5. Adjourn**

General Meeting Information

Environmental Sustainability Committee:

This Committee advises and makes recommendations to the Town Board about Huntersville's environmental sustainability efforts. The committee does this by focusing on four priority areas: Community Education and Engagement, Green Building and Infrastructure, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Enhancing Natural Beauty and Livability. Each committee member is appointed for a term of not more than three (3) years. For more information, visit www.huntersville.org.

Meeting Time, Place and Agenda:

All meetings are open to the public and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. The Committee meets in the Town Center at 3:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (unless otherwise posted). Agendas are published Mondays before the meeting on our website. The Commission reserves the right to deviate from the agenda.

Public Comment and Public Hearing Policy:

Persons desiring to address the Board during the public comment period or a public hearing shall sign up via the speaker sign-up sheet no later than five (5) minutes prior to the designated meeting start time. Once the meeting has begun, a person may not sign up to speak. Persons who have signed up to speak shall be allowed to speak for up to three (3) minutes. The Mayor shall have the discretion to shorten the allotted speaking time depending on the number persons registered to speak and in consideration of the length of the agenda. *(Public Comment and Public Hearing Policy - Amended March 3, 2026)*

Special Accommodations:

Please contact the Town Clerk, 72 hours prior to the meeting, for special accommodations to attend this meeting and/or if this information is needed in an alternative format. Janet Pierson can be reached at clerk@huntersville.org or 704-875-6541.

Environmental Sustainability Committee

June 11, 2026 Meeting

Members Present: Diane McLaine, (Chair) Priya Jayaram (Vice Chair), Anne Marie O'Neill, Lisa Zelina, and Natalie Paavola

Members Absent: Dana Hicks, Tim Sanborn, Heiner Dornburg, Trisha Knight

Town Elected Officials and Staff Present: Jennifer Hunt, Town Commissioner; Mary Propst, Town Arborist; Brad Priest, Assistant Planning Director; Nathan Farber, Senior Planner

Call to Order – Diane McLaine called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes

- Priya Jayaram motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Lisa Zelina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments, Requests, or Presentations

- No presentations or public comments were made.

Business

1. **Town Board Update** – Diane McLaine showed the committee a draft of the presentation planned for the Town Board scheduled for June 21. The presentation includes ESC updates, 2026 goals, and progress made to date. Topics covered include the Growers Market, community cleanup events, wildlife corridors, the Treasure Tree Program, Arbor Day celebrations, and other ongoing initiatives.

Upcoming 2026 priorities include increasing ESC visibility, waste and recycling education, community cleanups, energy initiatives, wildlife conservation, and continued efforts related to the Treasure Tree Program and tree canopy preservation. The presentation will conclude with a Q&A session.

The ESC typically provides updates to the Town Board approximately twice per year.

2. **Grower's Market Planning - June 27th** – Priya Jayaram and Lisa Zelina are leading preparations for the upcoming Growers Market. Composting information and educational materials will be added to the ESC booth. Priya reported that she spoke with Bobby Williams about a composting survey planned to be distributed at the June 27 market.

Lisa met with Aaron Caudle with Mecklenburg County Recycling and Solid Waste, who offered to give promotional materials for the recycling program distribution. She noted that communicating to residents that Mecklenburg County experiences several garbage truck fires each week due to improperly disposed batteries would be helpful to convey. She will also provide compost collection buckets and informational inserts for distribution at the Growers Market.

Natalie Paavola is coordinating a meeting with Sandy Skolochenko, Recycling Program Development Coordinator with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ).

The committee discussed the structure of the composting survey, which will focus on resident preferences between neighborhood composting and a compost drop-off program that includes a food scrap collection bucket.

- 3. Green Network Plan - Planning Staff Update** - Nathan Farber, Senior Planner with the Town of Huntersville, presented an early draft of the Green Infrastructure Plan. The plan aims to create a connected network of green spaces, wildlife corridors, and contiguous tree canopy while guiding future open space preservation and development. Planning and GIS staff have compiled data from existing greenways, natural areas, and NC Natural Heritage Program resources to develop a mapping algorithm. The draft map is still being refined.

Next steps include finalizing the draft, conducting community engagement, identifying any missing priority areas, and presenting the plan to the Board for adoption. If approved, the plan would serve as a policy guide for future development decisions.

Discussion ensued also on implementation challenges. State law currently limits downzoning and restricts certain regulatory tools, such as mandatory conservation corridors or expanded stream buffers. Staff noted that while the plan may not be enforceable in all situations, it can still inform rezonings, subdivisions, staff recommendations, and future ordinance amendments. In some cases, staff could recommend denial of projects that are inconsistent with the plan.

Diane McLaine asked about wildlife crossings, including culverts under I-77 and impacts from road projects such as the NC 73 widening. Nathan noted that corridor alignments may change through public input and additional analysis. Brad Priest noted that existing roads are difficult to retrofit, but wildlife crossings

could be considered during the design of new roads. He also noted that available data could help identify locations for wildlife crossing signage and other infrastructure improvements, potentially in partnership with NCDOT and the Town of Huntersville.

Discussion also addressed the need for better data on wildlife migration patterns. Nathan and Brad suggested regional migration data may be difficult to obtain for local areas, but that staff would coordinate with Mecklenburg County and state agencies to identify additional resources. Nathan noted that the plan already incorporates data from the NC Natural Heritage Program.

Anne Marie asked about light pollution impacts. Nathan responded that current zoning requirements already address lighting concerns and cited the proposed driving range near the Catawba Lands Conservancy as a recent example where lighting was discussed.

Staff hopes to begin public engagement in early fall, though timing may shift based on staff availability. ESC members could help serve as ambassadors during the public outreach process.

- 4. Mecklenburg County Solid Waste Site Visit Discussion** – Priya Jayaram and Lisa Zelina talked with Aaron Caudle, who asked to let him know which date works best for ESC. Priya suggested holding the event as an additional meeting rather than replacing a regular ESC meeting. Staff mentioned they would confirm the requirements, noting that if more than three ESC members attended, the event would need to be advertised as a supplemental meeting.

Brad Priest stated he provided Aaron with potential fall dates and was waiting to hear confirmation back. Staff will follow up with Bobby to gather additional information about logistics concerning an additional meeting. Diane McLaine suggested targeting September for the event if feasible.

Review Goals / Calendar Event Discussion – Consideration

- 5.** Each Committee member reviewed their updates and goal progress on the committee checklist and spreadsheet. See attached.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16g5Ot_E-0rqovaluIRvxIhGC0VXkZeA/edit?gid=569531632#gid=569531632

Other Discussion - No other discussion was raised for the Committee's attention.

Adjourn - Natalie Paavola made a motion to adjourn, Priya Jayaram seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting - July 9, 2026