



Meeting on January 18, 2023, 7:00 pm

Board Members	Board Members	Staff	Guests
Meg Molloy	Jane Danielewicz	Laura Janway	Alesia Bregu
Greg Randolph	Lauren Nyland		
Rob Pinder	Heidi Paulsen		
Nick Stover			

Note: Absent/Excused: Tilly Pick

**Call to Order, Announcements**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Vice-Chair Molloy.

**Reapprove 11/16/23 Meeting Minutes**

Staff member Janway mentioned that she hadn't documented the suggested edit to the 11/16/23 minutes from Pick. Members discussed and Paulsen provided input on her recollection of the suggested edit. Members agreed to update and reapprove the 11/16/23 meeting minutes. Motion by Paulsen, seconded by Stover. All voted in favor except Pinder, who abstained because he was not present at the 11/16/23 meeting. **AYES: (5) Stover, Paulsen, Danielewicz, Nyland, Molloy; NAYES: (0); ABSTENTIONS: (1) Pinder.**

**Approve 12/14/23 Meeting Minutes**

Danielewicz motioned to approve the 12/14/23 meeting minutes, seconded by Nyland. All voted in favor. **AYES: (3) Danielewicz, Nyland, Molloy; NAYES: (0); ABSTENTIONS: (2) Pinder, Paulsen.**

**Discussion Items**

**Current and Upcoming Outreach Topics**

- **2024 Green Neighborhoods Grant Program**

Staff member Janway Laura stated a potential Green Neighborhoods Grant Program timeline. Members discussed how to tailor outreach about the program to groups who do not have representation from formal neighborhood associations, such as HOAs. Members discussed an info session on fiscal agents and how to partner with community organizations. Randolph joined at 7:26 pm. Molloy asked if there was a list of all non-profits in town and stated that the Center for Environmental non-profits might have a list of the ones in Carrboro zip codes. Janway stated she could reach out to Jon Hartman-Brown, the Town's Economic Development Director, for more information. Randolph mentioned a non-profit that serves a large refugee population in Carrboro called Transplanting Traditions. Members discussed translating the program application to other languages. Nyland stated she was willing help out with program outreach in-between meetings; Danielewicz and Molloy agreed as well. CAT applicant Alesia Bregu joined at 7:34 pm. She mentioned she is trying to help improve recycling in the local school system and stated she would be happy to promote the Green Neighborhoods Grant Program in her school. Staff plan to launch the next round of the program this spring.

**Landscaping Equipment Presentation**

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Staff member Janway introduced the topic. Nyland asked to clarify; was the ask from the Town Council that the CAT make recommendations to help accelerate community transition from gas-powered to electric landscaping equipment. Janway responded that this was their charge and provided a background presentation. Members discussed several topics, including that the time of day is important and safety-wise, it's better for people to be outside in the early morning and evening to avoid the heat of the day. Stover mentioned that it would be helpful to have a program or policy to promote alternative uses for lawns like pollinator gardens. He stated that his a member of the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee at UNC and plans to bring up this topic at their next voting meeting.

Motion was made by Stover and seconded by Paulsen that the CAT recommended the Town consider the following items and any additional ideas sent by CAT members to staff by February 1, 2024:

- Promote models of lawn alternatives
  - Promote Managed Natural Landscapes Ordinance
  - Leave Your Leaves
  - New Hope Audubon Society's bird-friendly habitat program
- Vouchers or rebates from the Town for electric landscaping equipment
- Look for funding sources to promote
  - Orange County Climate Action Grants
  - Inflation Reduction Act – 30% tax credit for commercial-grade lawn mowers
  - Town Revolving Loan Funds
- Set up a workshop where landscaping companies could learn about resources to upgrade equipment and also company vehicles
- Reducing mowing and leaf blowing frequency
- Consider bulk-purchasing
- Work with local businesses and vendors to hold a show-and-tell event or a fair for companies to come view electric equipment
- The Town could create stickers to help brand climate-friendly landscaping companies
- Comprehensive information could be sent directly to the HOAs related to noise pollution, emissions, and the health and safety of the workers
- Carrboro should set the example with the contractors they hire to maintain Town properties and also promote the transition of Town-owned equipment
- Solicit ideas from the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee at UNC
- Consider allowing landscaping equipment companies to use Town-owned chargers for landscaping equipment
- The Town could also provide chargers in community centers or Town-owned properties such as parks
- Local companies using electric equipment:
  - Green Energy Lawn Care
  - The Silent Treatment of North Carolina
- Non-profits working to accelerate adoption of electric landscaping equipment: American Greenzone Alliance
- Time of day is important for safety as it is better for people to be out in the early morning and evening to avoid heat

**AYES: (7) Randolph, Paulsen, Pinder, Stover, Danielewicz, Nyland, Molloy; NAYES: (0).**

### **Discuss Upcoming Meeting Topics, Announcements**

Danielewicz provided an update on her work to reach out to Town staff to obtain a list of restaurants in Carrboro to contact about the Town's climate-friendly cookbook. She asked if anyone would be able to help with emailing and Nyland offered to assist. Members discussed a February 8<sup>th</sup> deadline for recipes. Janway stated she would discuss with staff and provide a final confirmation on wording of the emails.

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Members discussed the upcoming meeting on 1/26/24 with the CAT Chair and Vice-Chair, Town Manager and Town Attorney. Motion by Nyland, seconded by Danielewicz to get feedback on the following CAT documents:

Proposed Scope of Activities, Communications Plan and Budget, Green Neighborhoods Plan, and CAT Identity Brief and Engagement Principles. All voted in favor except Paulsen, who had stepped away for a moment.

**AYES: (6) Randolph, Pinder, Stover, Danielewicz, Nyland, Molloy; NAYES: (0); ABSTENTIONS: (1) Paulsen**

Meg mentioned an upcoming opportunity to provide public comment on implementation of a federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant received by Central Pines Regional Council.

Members discussed meeting dates moving forward. Nyland proposed meeting on the second Thursday of each month. Members agreed. Motion by Stover, seconded by Danielewicz to meet on the second Thursday of each month. All voted in favor. **AYES: (7) Randolph, Pinder, Stover, Paulsen, Danielewicz, Nyland, Molloy; NAYES: (0); ABSTENTIONS: (0)**

### **Adjourn**

Members did not make a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.