

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Topics: Creation of a Mission Statement, Adoption of a Green Fleet Policy, Assistance with Home Weatherization

Committee Members Present: Alderwoman Tadio, Alderman McCann, Alderman Barbagallo

Others present: Alderman Michael Talbot

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a mission statement for the committee, a green fleet policy for the committee, and a home weatherization program.

We discussed the need to create a mission statement or a statement of some sort that would help community members understand the purpose of the committee. Brandon has an energy committee and this committee has done a lot of good projects for their city. Alderwoman Tadio would like to recreate some of those ideas here in Rutland, including connecting people with opportunities for home weatherization programs, DIY solar, and educational workshops for home owners and renters on how to improve home efficiency.

Alderman McCann stated there are a lot of things we could do with this committee such as seek a Bee City USA Certification and a Tree City Certification or get a Bike Friendly Recommendation which would be great press for our city. Alderman Barbagallo said we could add resources to the city website under the environmental sustainability committee page to help people get connected with home efficiency programs and home weatherization programs.

Alderman Talbott suggested doing a press release for the environmental sustainability committee and that we could offer Efficiency Vermont a spot a Friday night live to help city residents connect with programs to assist them.

The committee discussed creation of a Green Fleet Policy which is a policy that tracks emissions of city vehicles and aims to replace city vehicles with more fuel-efficient vehicles. The goal of a Green Fleet policy is to reduce Rutland's reliance on carbon and to reduce Rutland's environmental footprint. We could consider our emergency vehicles, plow trucks, school buses and city mowers and other city equipment that causes carbon emissions. Alderman Barbagallo stated that one of the police vehicles will need to be replaced soon and it would be a good idea to purchase an electric one that could be charged downtown as the replacement. Alderman Talbott recommended we use the Complete Streets Guidance DPW uses as a guide in our creation of a Green Fleet Policy.

The mission statement and creation of a Green Fleet Policy will remain in committee and this report is for informational purposes only.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.