

Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020

Due to the corona virus outbreak, this meeting is being conducted on Zoom. Chairperson, Kathleen Caccavale, called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting of the Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting was provided by transmitting a copy of the meeting notice to the Madison Eagle and Morris County Daily Record, posting a copy on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, and filing a copy in the office of the Clerk. This notice was made available to members of the general public.”

The following members acknowledged their presence:

Kathleen Caccavale, Chairperson/Regular Member
Peter Fried, Resident/Regular Member
Lisa Jordan, Resident/Regular Member
Joan Maccari, MEC Representative/Secretary/Regular Member
Stephen Tindall, School Board Representative/Regular Member
Maureen Byrne, Borough Council Liaison/Regular Member
Angelique Devost, Resident/Regular Member
Marilyn Musielski, Resident/Regular Member
Gene Cracovia, Resident/Regular Member

Guests:

Claire Whitcomb, Chair Madison Environmental Commission (MEC)
Bridget Daley, member Madison Environmental Commission

April minutes were unanimously approved, with correction by Peter Fried. The sentence "They are working on software that will automatically update the carbon footprint data each year" will be changed to "They are working on software to reduce the work in doing the carbon footprint data each year, by automating the interface to utility data." Minutes will be submitted to Rosenet.

Joan Maccari requested access to recordings of meetings to ensure accuracy of minutes. There were no objections.

Steve Tindall reported on schools:

- Michael Zulla has left his position as Director of Facilities, and will no longer be the contact person between SMAC and environmental facilities in the schools. As second in command, Chris Kechula is anticipated to act as contact until a permanent director is confirmed.
- The school board has approved the creation of a 17-member school-district Green Team. Members of the green team currently include principals of the schools and a teacher or other employee from most schools and employees in the central office.

External members, from the MEC or SMAC for example, and student members have not yet been named, but are anticipated to be assigned to the green team in the future. A chairperson has not yet been named. Creation of the team was coordinated through the office of assistant superintendent Daniel Ross.

- The school district plans to apply for bronze certification for the district as a whole, including every school building, through Sustainable Jersey for Schools (SJS). The school district sustainability policy is being updated for bronze certification with SJS. There are 8 policies referenced within the parent sustainability policy, including professional development for sustainability, green purchasing, district safe routes to school, ISTEAM education, and others. The complete list is available on the school district website as an attachment to the recent school board meeting agenda.
- The school district is looking into getting VW settlement money to replace a bus, but it is not yet known if Madison will qualify.
- Also, there may be money available for electric car chargers at one or two of the schools. Again, it is not known if the school district qualifies. The district would like, ideally, to install chargers at every school, but will need grant money to do that.

Kathi Caccavale encouraged everyone to attend the virtual open house for the Borough Master Plan (MP), and take the survey. Consensus opinion was that the open house and the survey were generally straightforward and easy to navigate, but that it was difficult to submit the completed survey. This is only a first step in the process of rewriting the MP. A question of when and if we will be able to give comments at stakeholder meetings was raised.

Claire Whitcomb invited all members of SMAC to join the MEC Zoom meeting on May 28 and discuss possible comments from MEC and SMAC to the MP committee. Claire updated the committee on progress toward recruiting summer student interns to help with MEC and SMAC projects. A working group meeting to brainstorm ideas successfully came up with a number of possible projects. Three potential interns have already shown interest. A press release to recruit interns was sent out today.

Members reviewed progress on their individual assigned action items.

The next SMAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 16, 2020, but may be changed to an earlier date due to the June 14 SJ deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joan Maccari.