

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Jana McGee, Rebecca Swanson, Molly O'Donnell, Gwen White, Jeff Jewel

**Regrets:** Joe Kielar, Gary Charbonneau, Bill Brown, Jessica Pittman, Teddie Mower, Dave Rollo, Stephanie Richards

**Staff:** Jacqui Bauer

**Public:** None

**Public comment:** None

**Announcements**

Molly announced a Cut Your Carbon Workshop to be held on October 14.

There will be another Smart City Cycling program on October 17.

**Approval of Minutes:** Because there was not a quorum, the approval of minutes was postponed to next month.

**Leveraging Embodied Energy – Duncan Campbell**

History of working with developers to leverage incentives for historic preservation; also ran the historic preservation program at Ball State for several years and is now retired.

It costs something to create all things – buildings, etc.; all involve embodied energy and other resources.

Every building starts with an “environmental debt”, and embodied energy is one way of quantifying this debt.

- \*an efficient home would need to be operated efficiently for 35-50 years to make up the energy that went into its construction

- \*it can take more than 30 years before any cumulative energy savings is achieved when one building is demolished and another is replaced – quote from Mike Jackson, FAIA

Single-paned windows with storm windows have a similar R-value for replacement windows, so rarely makes sense to install new windows.

How could we incent developers to protect more buildings? Tax credits only apply to buildings important enough to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **STAR Communities Update**

No update

## **Report from the Chair**

Education Committee of the Monroe County Energy Challenge is hosting a training session on energy efficiency for teachers and others interested in participating in the Energy Challenge. The event will take place on October 20, and there are still seats available.

## **Sustainability Coordinator Report**

*Energy Challenge update –*

The Americorps National Civilian Community Corps is doing great and has helped us complete 100 assessments. Many challenges in trying to continue their momentum after they leave on November 6, and asked the commission for help in identifying other “connectors” in the community that can bring the word about the Challenge to others in the community.

## **Committee reports:**

*Environmental Commission Planning Committee:* No report

EC: Two speakers most recently: Rebekah Fiedler, who is working on monarch butterfly habitat issues, and Rhonda Baird, who presented on permaculture and is the chair of the Center for Sustainable Living.

Discussed recognition ceremony for the big oak tree that will be coming down in Seminary Square – likely to be held in December.

Discussed the potential for a local Materials Recovery Facility and potential challenges with getting it constructed and up and running.

The EC recycling committee is working to gather data on recycling and opportunities to increase local recycling.

Weimer Lake Dam: has been labelled as hazardous; also concerns about mercury poisoning.

*Bring Your Bag Bloomington:*

The Chamber has arranged a trip to the North Vernon plastic bag recycling committee that will take place on October 28.

## **New Business:**

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.