

The Green Team Meeting will be held in person at Basalt Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting from the audience.



TOWN OF BASALT MEETINGS

Basalt Green Team

Monday, November 13, 2023

Basalt Town Hall

101 Midland Avenue

- 3:30 PM** **Roll Call**
- 3:31** **1. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2023**
- 3:35** **2. Building Benchmarking** – *Clare McLaughlin from the City of Aspen will provide an overview of Aspen’s Building IQ program, lessons learned, and how the programming is helping Aspen to achieve its climate action goals.*
- 4:00** **3. Community Compost Discussion.** *Staff to present some options to the Green Team regarding possible options to involve the Basalt community in composting in 2024.*
Recommended Action: *The Green Team may choose to make a motion to support an option presented or pursue another option related to community composting.*
- 4:00** **5. Member/Supporter Updates**
- 4:45** **6. Future Agenda Items**
- 5:00** **Adjourn**

Green Team Meeting
October 9, 2023
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Basalt Town Hall

Green Team Members Present: Charlie Eckart, Eileen Fagan
Town Staff: Sara Nadolny, Catherine Christoff, Michelle Thibeault, Mitzi Rapkin,
Guests: Sean Satterfield, Mary Weiner

Agenda Items

- Approve Minutes from August 14, 2023.
- Solar Project Update
- Continued Discussion of 2024 Draft GT Work Plan
- Updates
 - Annual Leaf Drop
 - CORE Grant Program – funding allocations
 - E-bike Rebate Program
 - Willits Lane Connectivity and Town Wayfinding Plan RFP
- Member/Supporter Updates
- Future Agenda Items and Other

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm

1. Guest Introduction

Sean Satterfield introduced himself as a local resident and architect. He expressed his interest in understanding what the role of the Green Team is within the Town, and possibly joining the Commission.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2023

M/S Eileen and Charlie to approve the meeting minutes from August 14, 2023. Motion passed 2 to 0.

3. Solar Project

Catherine, Town Engineer, provided an update of the Town’s solar project. She explained that the idea for solar installation was a product of the 2020 Master Plan which spoke of a large-scale solar installation. McKinstry completed a feasibility study where 9-10 sites were evaluated, resulting in a short list of viable sites. There will be a ground mount array installed at the Basalt High School, solar roof mounts at Basalt Elementary School, the bus barn in El Jebel, at the new Public Works facility in the Willits area, and at the Basalt High School concession stand.

The Town received a DOLA grant which offset 33% of the project cost. There is a possible additional 20% project refund through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). McKinstry has determined there will be a full pay back of the solar installation within the warranty period for the panels. Catherine noted that battery backup systems were not installed, as they do not make financial sense at this time.

She said there has been some brief delay in the project but understands that permits were submitted last week with the intent of solar installation at the Public Works facility by end of November. The completion of the installation this year will make an IRA refund a possibility.

The ground mount at the Basalt High School is more complicated and will be completed next summer.

Catherine reported that Active Energies from Eagle County is performing the solar installation. This company was recommended by Holy Cross Energy.

Partnering with the school district was critical in moving forward with the solar project. Catherine explained that the Town does not own enough property to locate these arrays strictly on Town property.

She added that the high school could be ripe for an additional solar array in the future. The physical display of the ground mounted arrays will be a sign that the school is striving for green energy goals and will serve as a teaching tool. Student organization will be involved with the installation. The array will include a real time display regarding the energy load offset in real time on the website.

4. Continued Discussion of 2024 Draft GT Work Plan

Michelle provided a recap of the 2023 Green Team accomplishments and the 2024 Green Team work plan.

She reminded the Green Team that Aspen Global Change Institute has strongly recommended against annual tracking of greenhouse gas emissions, as it involves significant resources and is difficult to see changes over the course of a single year.

There is an ongoing effort regarding the planned update to the greenhouse gas emissions inventory report, which is produced every three years, to be a regional effort. Staff is working with Pitkin County, Aspen, and Snowmass Village currently on this initiative.

There is some discussion that can be had around building performance standards and benchmarking energy usage through utility usage. In some communities those that do not hit their targets for reduction face hefty fines. There is an opportunity to work with the City of Aspen to understand their benchmarking program and process. The idea is to see real comparisons of energy efficiency and related financial implications in commercial buildings, and greater awareness trending energy problems and opportunities in buildings. .

The Green Team budget also includes a line item for upgrades to Town Hall buildings. The improvements that have been or will be made (e.g. air sealing, window replacement) will lead to new metrics that can be showcased.

Basalt Connect is going to run year-round next year due to additional funding from RFTA.

Green Team members had previously shown interest in future bike-to-work days as partnership events (e.g. Chamber of Commerce). Staff will check into what other communities are doing in Eagle Valley.

Regarding the Midland Ave Streetscape Project, the final design plan has been undergoing a value engineering process which is near completion. The Green Team could consider supporting some information panels that could be placed around the project area informing the public about what is going on Midland Avenue. For instance, the rain gardens in Aspen contain placards that explain the role of rain

garden filtration of stormwater. There is an opportunity here to build up that sense of environmentalism – the more information the better.

Michelle reported on the kickoff meeting for the Environmental Club at Basalt High School. The club has 12 students participating this year. She shared the opportunity to attend and participate in the Green Team meetings and is hoping for some participation at a future meeting, possibly involving a rotating membership. Catherine will provide an update to Environmental Club members regarding the solar project. Michelle noted that the students were asking us for directions on what could be done from a systems change point of view to local changes.

5. Member Updates and Other

Mary Weiner (CORE) reported that those within the 81621-zip code have received 20 total rebates from CORE – 10 in each County. CORE is unsure if they will offer grants next year and may focus on shovel ready projects.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm