

Green Team Meeting
January 10, 2022
Via Zoom

Green Team Members included: Gerry Terwilliger, Doug Goldsmith, Martin Bonzi

*Attendees included: Phi Filerman, Mike Steiner, Catherine Christoff, Amanda Poindexter, Sara Nadolny,
Susan Philp, Mary Weiner*

Agenda Items

- Approve Minutes from November 8, 2021 and December 13, 2021
- Member Updates
- New Business
 - AgriVoltaics
- Projects – Continued discussions
 - Basalt Forward 2030
 - Composting
 - Grant Programs
 - Update on Code Amendments
- Future Agenda Items

1. Approve meeting minutes

M/S Doug and Martin to approve the meeting minutes from November 8, 2021 and December 13, 2021. Motion passed 3 to 0.

2. Member Updates

Mike Steiner (Holy Cross Electric) reported that he and Lisa Reed have been assisting with the request for proposals for a solar provider. Interviews with the short list of providers are scheduled to take place next week. Holy Cross is working on campaigns involving commercial batteries for resiliency and 100% renewable energy. He reported there are many fuel switching projects underway.

Mary Steiner (Holy Cross Electric) said the 2022 rebates are on the website, including those for new electric lawn care equipment. Rebates are eligible for 90 days up to days after the purchase date, same as CORE. 2022 rebates will include up to 25% of the project cost including labor costs and electrical upgrades for any electrical project. Mary recognized that labor costs have recently skyrocketed in the area. Holy's Cross's role is to get an estimated project cost, itemized bill, number of technicians and hourly rate with the goal to educate homeowners and businesses. Holy Cross encourages preventative maintenance on equipment.

Gerry Terwilliger reported that he spent time at Basalt High School with teacher and P&Z Chair Eric Vozick discussing composting. He is waiting for Eric to provide a spreadsheet on the cost of composting in various locations for the school.

Martin Bonzi (Aspen Global Change Institute) said his organization is hiring two climate science fellows which will be remove positions. More information can be found at <https://www.agci.org/career-opportunities> Martin said he will be working until the end of the month with Aspen Global Change Institute and would like to remain a part of the Green Team. He is looking at other opportunities in the Valley and may have news about his new position at the next Green Team meeting.

Phi Filerman (CORE) reported that Mike Bouchet is working with Town Engineer Catherine Christoff on the solar RFP and will be helping to conduct the interviews next week. The City of Aspen is working on getting benchmarking program online which CORE will be administrating. CORE is starting to do work with Snowmass Village's E-board to develop a Climate Action Plan that will require public engagement.

3. New Business - AgriVoltaics

Susan introduced this as a topic that was briefly discussed at the last meeting and was tabled until Martin was able to speak about this. Martin said the topic of agrivoltaics is getting a lot of momentum right now on Colorado's Front Range. Colorado State University has been conducting research in this area. Funding has been available for agrivoltaic projects through federal agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Boulder. Martin proposed that since a solar project is taking off in Basalt, this could be a good opportunity to provide another sustainability project for the Town and position Basalt where innovation is occurring. Agrivoltaics reflects the Town's deep historic roots in agriculture. A demonstration project could provide a great opportunity to produce some research on various types of solar arrays and crops. Water is saved, solar production is increased, and new jobs may result.

Susan brought up idea of doing this at the community garden expansion area with a half-acre demonstration garden. Gerry was concerned that garden has a lot of different gardeners with individual plots. Each person controls their plot. Most things that are grown love full sun, although he agreed that this area could have plantings that do not require full sun. This may be difficult to get going. Gerry wondered if agrivoltaics present issues for plowing, and if pastureland may be more practical for this type of application. Martin asked what the liability release would be for the community garden. The Town could partner with researchers. Martin noted that the local Colorado Mountain College showed initial interest and felt that local farmers may also be interested. The Town could lease the land under panels to local producers. Agrivoltaic practices have shown proven success with smaller animals, not cattle. Depending on solar panels used, more light can go through with transparent panels. Martin noted that crops like tomatoes do well with partial sun. Martin said agrivoltaics tis showing good results in the energy/water/food nexus.

Gerry would like more information. Susan said Staff should keep an eye on the community garden expansion area, as it is easier to do projects on property we already own. She questioned how small a successful demonstration project could be.

4. Projects – Continued Discussions

4.A. Basalt Forward 2030 – Update on Solar Project

Catherine thanked Holy Cross their help which has been essential in moving forward with the Town's solar project. She also received input from Jeff Gatlin at the RE-1 School District. Catherine reported that in total eight proposals were received, most of which were really solid. Four firms were shortlisted

and will be going forward with interviews, based on reviews by Town Staff and Holy Cross. Shortlisted firms include Lithtec, Iconergy, Solas, and McKinstry. Catherine has begun drafting interview questions with Holy Cross. All interviews will be recorded.

4.C Grant Program

Sara said she is looking at this program to be more of a rebate than a grant program as it seems like it would be easier to manage that way. She will create a table showing the rebates offered by CORE and Holy Cross in order to find where resources could be best leveraged. This can be sent out prior to the next Green Team meeting.

4.D - Update on Code Amendments

Amanda reported that the schedule has been shifted to refine a few items, including the two information sessions that were planned for next week. The info sessions were switched from in-person to virtual due to the rising number of COVID cases in the region. The Green Code Committee is meeting this Wednesday at 8 am. The Building Official is checking out HERS rating requirements in other communities. To keep the ball moving require a HERS rating or a Res-check that is a certain percentage above the minimum. The intent is to incentivize building smaller homes. Beneficial Electrification is another item. Amanda said the Committee is pretty close in finalizing the amendments to go before Town Council.

Benchmarking commercial buildings -Colorado requires all buildings 50,000 square feet of greater sf to enter their utility data into the portfolio manager program. The question is whether Basalt wants to follow Aspen's program, which is to require benchmarking for buildings 20,000 square feet and greater. For this amendment benchmarking will be required for any new construction or those applying for permit. The program would not catch any projects for a while, but putting it in as a requirement will prepare people for the future.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Composting

- Pursue a public outreach program?
- Speak with developer of Stott's Mill about getting composting into buildings as an agreement prior to completion
- Sara will create an ad for the advertisement of Green Team members

M/S Doug and Martin to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3 to 0.