

Sustainability Committee meeting

Friday 19 February 2010, Keith Room, 12:30 pm

Attending: Maurice Eldridge, Ralph Thayer, Eric Wagner, Carr Everbach, Nicole Lewis, David Burgy, Eric Chiang, Evelyn Strombom, Camille Robertson, HG Chissell.

Nicole reported that the consultant for the Mertz field (Renewing Fund Priority 1) informed her that he would need to be paid more and operate over a longer timescale than previously arranged. Nicole asked the Committee if Grounds could use the allotted investment entirely for startup consultation fees. While originally some of the investment was to be used for ongoing costs, Nicole said that Jeff Jabco is willing to put funds in his budget toward the project in future years. The payback of the loan would begin six months later than expected; more early consultant visits would be spent arranging composting system and soil tests. The actual lawn management would not begin until Fall 2010, though Camille's work as Summer Intern would still proceed and she would lay the groundwork. The Committee approved this request by acclamation.

Carr reported that Jeff Jabco, Director of Grounds, had provided him with an updated version of the recycling rules. Carr showed Colin Purrington's graphic illustrating which plastic, glass, and aluminum containers can be recycled in Swarthmore Borough. Carr suggested that SusCom update and publicize campus recycling statistics, comparing them to trash estimates. Camille will work with Stacy Kutish to provide a visible link to campus recycling rules on the SusCom website. Camille will also work with Earthlust, Green Advisors, and "War on Waste" activists to spread the information to the campus community.

Carr informed the committee that Maurice has offered to draft a memo to departments and offices asking how many phone books they would like so that we can receive fewer from Verizon.

Eric Wagner said he had talked to Tom Narkin about cloth towels in the Mullen Fitness Center in response to War on Waste requests from the previous meeting. Eric said the College does not currently own any towels, other than shower towels in the pool area. Tom had expressed concern that the towels would have to be washed, which would require detergent, bleach, and hot water, and would tend to disappear over time via non-return. Eric stated that he and Tom felt it would be best to implement a more effective recycling program for the current paper towels in the Fitness Center. He and Tom are going to talk to EVS about getting more recycling bins for the paper towels. Eric mentioned the lack of recycling receptacles for outdoor athletic events; Athletics sometimes has special setups for large events but for home games no special arrangements are made and the permanent trash cans are often full of recyclables after a game. Nicole said that we have outdoor metal recycling bins that could potentially be installed by the track.

Ralph said that low ceiling heights may be an obstacle in installing loading dock curtains in Sharples, Clothier, and Martin. He feels the docks of the Science Center and LPAC

may be more likely to have higher ceilings, but the food freezers are likely to be the sites where heat conservation would be most energy-saving.

Carr expressed his view that due process dictates that Earthlust not have special access to the committee. Rather, open meetings are used as times for anyone (including Earthlust members) to bring topics and requests to SusCom. The committee will give advice, consent, and coloration (sometimes including the use of the Committee's name) on a case-by-case basis. However, SusCom will strive to address student concerns and support student initiatives.

Carr showed a List Gallery/McCabe Library high quality glossy unsolicited mailing. Andrea Packard, Director of the List Gallery, will attend the first SusCom meeting after Spring break to discuss these mailings. She is constrained by many factors but values discussion. Carr asked the committee to pay attention to these unsolicited mailings to begin to manage the flow of paper production on campus. Eric brought up a similar issue with Phoenix printing and distribution, in which large piles of unread newspapers accumulate in lobby areas. Camille will relay this issue to Earthlust and War on Waste activists.

Temple University greenhouse gas auditors will attend a SusCom meeting and give a presentation, probably right after Spring Break.

HG informed the committee that on April 16-17, the Alumni Council will sponsor a series of mixers. One such is a sustainability mixer to be held from 4:00-5:30 on the Friday, April 16, 2010. HG will reach out to the Swarthmore sustainability network. Carr asked him to mention the availability of a position on this committee while he does this outreach as well. [n.b., there were later two such inquiries, but both alumni were unable to attend meetings].

It was agreed that Ralph, Linda, Camille, and another Earthlust member that Camille will recruit will form a GreenBox subcommittee that will respond to and organize the GreenBox suggestions within the next month.

Carr passed around the Environmental Studies Program Request for Five-Year Renewal. The document will act as a roadmap for the future after the college recovers from the economic recess and resumes long-range planning, curricular planning, and fund distribution. Carr suggested that we invite professor Carol Nackenoff to summarize the document at a meeting after Spring break.

Nicole informed the committee that information on the Sustainability living panel during the inaugural event is now on the website. Carr will be its moderator.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted (based on Camille Robertson's notes),

Carr Everbach

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Future SusCom meetings:

Wednesday, Feb 24, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Rm 4 (open meeting) – Agenda: list of things community members can do to improve sustainability on campus, sent as email in late April. More on recycling stickers, website, meeting schedule.

Wednesday, March 3, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Rm 4

<Spring Break>

Tuesday, March 16, 2:30-3:30 pm (open meeting)

Friday, March 26, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center

Wednesday, March 31, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4 (open meeting)

Tuesday, April 6, 2:30-3:30 pm

Friday, April 9, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center (open meeting)

Wednesday, April 14, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4

Tuesday, April 20, 2:30-3:30 pm (Everbach away; open meeting)

Wednesday, April 28, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4

Tuesday, May 4, 2:30-3:30 pm (last meeting before Finals and Inauguration; open meeting)