

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 29, 2011, Sharples Dining Hall, 8:30am

Attending: Linda McDougall, Tom Cochrane, Carr Everbach, Clara Fang, Erin Lowe, Deb Kardon-Brown, Morgan Bartz, Kathryn Wu, Alison Holliday, Massey Burke, Nadine Kolowrat, Marjorie Murphy, Celia Foster

Carr commenced the meeting by welcoming two new members of the sustainability committee: Tom Cochrane and Marjorie Murphy. Tom Cochrane, a senior project manager of planning and construction at the college, will both serve on the committee as well as update us on new facility plans on campus. The other new member is Marjorie Murphy who is a history professor at Swarthmore who also helps out War News Radio and teaches a ballroom dancing class.

Carr gave a special welcome to Massey Burke. This week and next week she will be on campus building an earthen wall next to Beardsley. Her project is supported by the Cooper Foundation. Massey said that she is a Swarthmore alumna from 2000 who majored in English. She now does natural building professionally. Natural building is the art of using local materials, inventing new ways of making construction more ecologically sustainable, and reviving old building techniques. The Alumni magazine profiled her and after seeing the article, professor Carpenter from the art department suggested that she come back and do a project at Swarthmore. Carr brought up that the stone she was using on the project reminded him of the stone from Alice Paul and David Kemp. Massey says the stone is left over from when Swarthmore built them. The clay she is using is from the field where the hotel is being built. Her project will stay up for around 2 years and will be 4 feet tall. Furthermore, if anyone would like to help build the wall in the next two weeks, the sign-up sheet is on the wall to the art department.

Carr welcomed our second guest Morgan Bartz '14. Yesterday Morgan attended the meeting of the Wallingford Sustainability Committee. Morgan said that this past summer she was a Chester Fellow. She worked for the DelCo Alliance for Environmental Justice where her job was to see what communities are doing to reduce waste. She attended the meeting in Wallingford to see what people were doing around Swarthmore to increase sustainability efforts. Carr offered support from the committee to Morgan and Wallingford for anything they may need. He mentioned that the Sustainability Committee has a list of meetings online in case she wanted to update the committee on what Wallingford was doing.

Carr reminded the committee that two weeks ago, he mentioned that Swarthmore had been approached by local community members to help with the Good Food Festival in early November. It is being organized by Farm to City who bring the Farmer's Market to Swarthmore every week. Farm to City asked the College to provide financial resources, space, and help from the student groups. Currently Good Food hasn't booked any space on campus for the festival so they may need the committee's help. It will occur on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> between 3-5 pm. There will be guest speakers, a pig roast, and an open panel discussion.

Carr mentioned the possibility that our committee could host a new staff orientation. They have had this for years but there has been no sustainability component. Clara has been communicating with Lee Robinson, Employee Relations Manager, to see how this will work. Clara mentioned she had new staff orientation yesterday, which made her ask if there could be a new sustainability component. Lee has been really receptive to this idea. The next one is December 12<sup>th</sup>. Right now it seems likely we will

have a spot on this meeting. The sustainability training, which would be around 20 minutes, could include an overview of the college's commitment to sustainability, sustainability initiatives on campus, employee guidelines and responsibilities, how to find resources on sustainability, and information about SusCom and ways to get involved. She further suggested that it would be great if there was a brochure they could hand out.

Linda said that old employees do not go to orientation so we should also try to get a sustainability component to staff meetings. She said the committee should aim to create a brochure for the Spring. Linda said that Charmane would be one to talk to about getting a spot on the all staff meeting. Carr also suggested talking to Stacey Kudish who works at the publications office about printing a brochure. Deb added that if we direct the brochure correctly, the committee could even get Swarthmore admissions to pay for some of them. Alison said that it is ironic that the sustainability initiatives would be printed on paper and perhaps we should look for alternatives. Carr thought maybe could print it on some reused cloth or something else, but added that it could be too expensive. Nadine said we had talked about revamping web so if we do make a brochure, the committee should coordinate it with the website.

Alison brought up the idea from last week of having some sculpture or art piece at the staff holiday party. Clara suggested a zero waste event for the party where all the food and utensils are compostable. Carr said we would have to talk to dining services or HR about this. Linda said that she organizes the holiday party and it would be hard to find locally grown foods at that time of year. She also added that most of the food is eaten and therefore there's not much waste. But she said she would look into it further. Carr mentioned we could commission a piece from Massey.

Nadine suggested we try and get a sustainability component to Staff Development Week in January. Carr said the deadline for this is coming up soon so we would have to act quickly. Furthermore, this week is usually over subscribed so not everyone that wants to present is able to.

Carr then introduced Tom Cochrane who would update the committee on energy initiatives. Carr mentioned that we used to be able to a real time chart of electricity use in buildings on the facilities website, but this page had been broken for a while. Tom said that this would be fixed. Carr then asked about the status of individual building monitoring. Currently, there is not a monitor in every building so you can't tell how efficient each building is.

Tom replied saying we have been under budget constraints and since a building monitor doesn't help the building operate, its been put on back burner. Since the budget has improved, they are trying to put in building monitors and also water monitors. Furthermore they are trying to find the amount of heat put in to each building. But, the buildings are heated with steam, and measuring steam is very difficult. Once they get some funding, they'll be able to implement all of these monitors. Tom added that they have put in counters in Parrish to monitor the usage of elevators. On average, people make 350-400 trips up in Parrish each day. Most of these trips happen around lunch.

Deb brought up that Parrish is for both students and staff. Since most of the trips are around lunch, this implies its mostly staff using the elevator. She thought maybe we could do something in combination with the wellness committee to get staff to use the stairs more. Marjorie mentioned the possible use of a sign next to the elevators. Tom said that he thought there was already a sign in Parrish, but most people disregarded it.

Carr asked Tom about energy use during breaks. Tom mentioned during fall and spring breaks, dorms run as if class is in session. During Christmas time, though, all the power is turned off. Carr added that

many rooms on campus can now be scheduled ahead of time for heating and air conditioning. Tom said most of the buildings on campus have to be scheduled ahead of time. If you don't schedule it, it will not be heated, cooled or have working phones. Many teachers have complained since it makes things less convenient for them. Carr said a lot of his colleagues book rooms they may or may not need just in case. Sometimes they are booked all day even though they are used only for a few hours. Carr said when he sees empty rooms with the lights on, he looks to see who has scheduled it and talks to the faculty member.

Alison brought up that the Chemistry Department is over air conditioned in the summer. Tom said that its extra cold to lower the humidity. To make the rooms warmer they have to cool the room to remove the humidity and then heat it again. Alison also mentioned that the Chemistry department is required to keep their doors open for safety reasons. If a room is occupied, they need to be able to see into it to make sure that everything is happening safely. If the door is closed, it is assumed no one is there. Therefore, the faculty need the doors to be open so people can enter if anyone needs help. Carr wondered if a window could be cut into the doors so that people can see into them but still shut the doors. Tom said that would be extremely expensive since these doors are all custom made.

Clara wondered what other buildings are left open during fall break. Tom said the library, offices, and dining hall are all left open. There is a huge reduction in students during this period but most academic buildings are operated as usual. He mentioned that Linda has gotten some of the coffee bars to reduce their hours during the break.

Carr next brought up lighting and asked if we are still giving CFLs to students when they get on campus to replace their light bulbs. Carr said we had lost the CFLs a while ago but then found them. He asked Tom to inquire to Ralph what the status of this was. Carr thought that giving CFLs to students was not only important for saving energy but to instill an eco-spirit in students.

Carr mentioned installing day light sensors, which turn lights down on sunny days, and occupancy sensors in bathrooms. Tom said with budget setbacks a lot of these projects were halted. But now they will reconsider since there is more fluidity in the budget. Carr added that this committee had some money from the renewing fund to buy this stuff. Kathryn also felt that these sensors might make people lazy about turning the lights off. Clara thought occupancy sensors in bathrooms made sense since don't spend a lot of time in bathrooms. But since people use classrooms for long periods of time, they should feel responsible for turning the lights off when they leave. Carr said most professors are distracted by students when leaving. Alison thought the best method was letting people know that you are turning the lights off. Marjorie said she got in a fight with someone yesterday about turning the lights off.

Deb said that in her office it is hard for her to unplug everything when she leaves since the sockets are hard to reach. She asked Tom if there was any easy way to turn everything off. Tom suggested a power strip might work, but Deb said this would also be hard for her to reach. Carr said there would be a way to engineer a doorbell to connect with a power strip that would turn everything off.

Carr asked if there were any final questions for Tom.

Nadine asked Tom if putting meters in each building needed to be done for the Climate Action Plan. Tom said currently he has a wide enough amount of data to likely be able to do the Climate Action Plan. The meters would probably be more for information such as seeing where energy is being used and how much energy is saved when there are changes in buildings. Carr added that the Climate Action

Plan needs to have achievable targets. To see if we have achieved these targets, they need to be quantified and these meters would greatly aid in this endeavor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

Respectfully submitted by Celia Foster and Clara Fang

\*\*\* Future planned meetings of the Sustainability Committee \*\*\*

Monday, October 3, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room

\*\*\* Fall Break \*\*\*

Monday, October 17, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room

Monday, November 7, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Room 4

Friday, November 18, 2011, 2-3 pm, Lang Center Seminar Room (106)

Monday, November 21, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room

Thursday, December 1, 2011, 8:30-9:30, Sharples Room 4

Monday, December 5, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room