

Sustainability Committee March 31

Attendance: Carr, Eric, Ralph, Maurice, Nathan (note-taker), Deb, Giovanna

### Carbon lighthouse:

Organization that Carr and Ralph have interviewed. They're a metering organization- electric, occupancy, whatever. They also have good modeling for energy systems, and how to improve use of equipment, etc.

Pay a fee up front and based on what they come up with, they can install whatever we need. They take the risk if there are few savings to be found. They return your money if that's the case.

Ralph is inviting Tom and Bill to review what they're proposing to determine feasibility.

They are geared more towards commercial systems, but have done work for Stanford.

Field house light timers to prevent them being left on overnight.

### Green Initiatives Fund Proposal

We approved last meeting under certain assumptions, that didn't happen.

Adam Hertz is extremely uncomfortable with new proposal because it encroaches on his family's space. He supports a garden project, but its messy, he has to maintain surrounding area, and students walk through his yard frequently. He wants to see it in a better condition, but doesn't want it moved up to his house.

Ralph, Melissa, Sheila, and Eric discussed the issue for a while. Its messy, no one's here to care for it in growing season. We may invite Good Food to SusCom to talk about expansion, institutionalization, or otherwise improving it.

New fence wouldn't be ADA accessible.

Melissa, when she was hired, looked at entire campus for garden spaces. She found the space between Danawell and Wharton could work, and the space between the train and Sharples could work. We want to take a longer term look at the situation than making the current garden location permanent.

Deb: Middlebury's garden is cared for at Middlebury because they have on-campus programming. We do have more students at Swat over summers- could that be a volunteer corps for garden maintenance?

Melissa is working on hiring an intern, but finding someone who knows what they're doing is difficult.

Good food has been trying to get other constituents involved, but its challenging when everyone is so stretched already. Series of tours of candidate locations with many stakeholders and decision makers already happened.

Pop-up garden for one semester below Sharples- why couldn't that be permanently integrated into Good Food?

Good Food should be able to keep their current garden until we're able to supply them with a bigger, better site

Swat farm was the entire 2011 capstone seminar, work with Wawa for a while, ENVS 001 proposal, etc. It keeps getting revisited, and it really has to do with

institutional leadership/desire. Agriculture on campus was in the early drafts of the Strategic Plan.

Now with an office of sustainability with a full-time director and there is clearly momentum for sustainability projects, a farm project seems much more likely than it was several years ago.

Aurora and Giovanna talked about bringing a soil scientist from another school to Swat.

As part of the tours, 4-5 faculty stated that they would like to use a garden in their course work.

Students working 9-4 in a lab could take care of the garden 5-7.

Model of Rose Tree Park- parcels are offered to people who do gardening.

Community garden across from ML has the problem that some parts are cared for meticulously, and other regions descend into weeds.

Increasing cost of living on campus over the summer might be more incentivized to work on the garden.

Carr: I'd be happy to have the students work on the garden as part of their service to me.

Ralph: There's also a lack of expertise in the student body.

Institutional mentorship and training and education on how to garden well.

Developing programs, of which there is a summer component.

We're going to send Good Food an amended proposal of what we're willing to fund and what makes sense at this point, and invite them to a longer discussion. We're willing to fund the shed and raised garden beds; not the fence.

#### Trash 2 Treasure update:

Adam Hertz send email to athletics suggesting it would be a potential fundraising opportunity; met with silence.

Deb: Aurora, OSE staff, Deb, and some community members have convened. Many groups want to use this as a fund raiser, but no one had answers to the need for space and time for the sale. Aurora reached out to Transition Town Media. Move-out will be Swarthmore's task. Students are going to be asked to do some pre-sorting of items. Some organizations will be contacted- ex: the textbook guy will take the textbooks. The rest will be moved to a storage facility that TTM will identify and monitor, and its their job to set up the sale and keep the proceeds. We then don't have to choose between on-campus claims for the proceeds. The items will still be available to the Swat community.

Strath kids involvement would entail too many liability issues; can't happen.

Partnering with Chester was explored, but no one stepped forward to manage it, and no one had storage options. United Way was involved for a bit. A woman who runs sales in Chester was involved, but she doesn't have the staff to do the work.

Mini-fridge rental program is moving forward. Group interest in informing students before they come to Swat what to bring, what not to bring, and how to consider the impact of any purchases, and how to deal with stuff at the end of the year. OSE is on it. Hope that it might be involved in RA/GA training.

Aunt Pams downsizing is sub-group in TTM- Pam and Julie would be partnering with us. They have storage place, staff, and know-how.

Sustainability summit on April 15.