

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, January 9, 2023

Basalt Town Hall

101 Midland Avenue

- 3:30 PM** **Roll Call**
- 3:31** **1. Approve Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2022**
- 3:35** **2. Welcome Members of BHS Environmental Club.** Hear about what the BHS Environmental Club is currently working on and explore possibilities of partnering or supporting initiatives.
- 3:50** **3. Finalize Chair/Vice Chair Roles.** At the December meeting Charlie Eckhart was nominated as Chair. Mike was suggested as a possible Vice Chair. Other members may also be nominated for these roles. *Recommended Action: Motion by Green Team members to appoint Charlie Eckhart as Chair. Motion to appoint additional Green Team member as Vice Chair.*
- 4:10** **4. Midland Avenue Streetscape Project.** Update provided by Staff. Staff to present information on existing EV charging stations around town and in proximity to this project. Green Team to discuss EV charging station locations and business sponsorship.
- 4:30** **Member/Supporter Updates**
- 4:50** **Future Agenda Items**
- 5:00** **Adjourn by this time**



**Basalt Green Team
ACTION MINUTES
December 12, 2022
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Basalt Town Hall**

Green Team Members present: Charlie Eckhart, Mike Steiner, Eileen Fagan
Green Team Members absent: Doug Goldsmith
Staff present: Michelle Thibeault, Sara Nadolny, Ryan Mahoney, Carlos Peugnet
Other attendees: Chris Howard, Amanda Poindexter, Phi Filerman, Dallas Blaney
Guests: Kristen Newcomer, Slate Communications

AGENDA ITEMS

- Approve meeting minutes from October 10 and November 14, 2022
- New Town Logo & Branding Process
- Update on Solar Project
- Updates on Green Team Work Plan and Items from Past Meeting
- Basalt High School Environmental Club

1. Approval of meeting minutes from October 10 and November 14, 2022

M/S Eileen and Charlie to approve the meeting minutes from October 10, 2022 with some corrections in the spelling of Charlie's last name. Motion passed 2 to 0.

M/S Charlie and Doug to approve the meeting minutes from November 14, 2022. Motion passed 3 to 0.

2. Update to Branding/Logo

Ryan Mahoney advised the Green Team that the Town is undergoing an update to its branding and logo and has contracted with Slate Communications on this work. He asked for one representative from each of the Town's committees to bring a different perspective to the table. The commitment is likely to include about four meetings between January and March. Ryan reported the Town is also looking to hire two local graphic designers to produce other logo design possibilities.

Kristen introduced herself and Slate Communications, a graphic design firm that works exclusively with local governments. Kristen provided examples of logos from communities around Colorado for Green Team members to see what is out there. She noted that this is a community process, not just marketing firm process, born from those that care most about it. Slate Communications is speaking with many

stakeholders. She outlined the process, starting with Theme and ending with Style Guide. Kristen said they are interested in getting local talent engaged in the process.

Kristen led the group through a voting exercise with questions geared toward terms and how they resonate with Basalt.

3. Update on the Town's Solar Project

Catherine updated the group on the solar project. She provided a recap, sharing that the solar project was started as nine possible solar array and was narrowed to five arrays after an analysis was complete. The arrays will be installed on the bus barn in El Jebel, Basalt Elementary School roof, Basalt High School's concession building, Basalt High School ground (with a ground mounted system), and the new Public Works facility. The arrays are expected to provide offset at approximately 33%. McKinstry has gone to 30% level with drawings and are finalizing their designs in coming months.

Catherine explained that McKinstry was selected by the Town through a competitive bid process. The Town will create an RFP to local contractors for installation. Nonlocals can bid as well but preference will be given to local installation companies. Local contractors may also provide operations and maintenance for the systems.

The preliminary cost estimate is \$1.1 million. Catherine explained that the Town has applied to DOLA for a grant as part of their Energy and Mineral program. Ryan and Catherine recently traveled to Pueblo and made a presentation to the DOLA board, where they asked for half of the project cost. A successful grant will reduce the payback period to 15 years from 30. It was funded by the bond that went to the voters, so the project will move forward regardless of whether the DOLA grant is successful. The project will be going to full design at the beginning of new year with the hope that the project will be under construction in the spring.

Charlie asked what the overall constraining parameter was in the scope, such as cost and budget, facility, available area, etc. Mike answered that Holy Cross was a constraining factor as they were looking for large utility scale systems. Other factors included roof space, meters that were available for offset, and ability to tie into systems. Roofs needed to have extended life span to be considered, as no one wants to tear up a roof and have to reinstall the solar.

Dallas asked if Holy Cross had considered floating solar at Ruedi Reservoir. Mike said he doesn't think Holy Cross has considered this, as interconnection is difficult, particularly for a utility scale project.

Eileen asked if, regarding the ground mounted system if there are plans to install pollinator plants in the drainage area after installation. She noted that this makes the solar system easier on the land the plants are beneficial to the natural environment by attracting pollinators. Phi and Eileen will send information to Catherine on this subject.

4. Update to Green Team Work Plan

Sara explained the idea to get a website going where the Green Team can engage the community on topics related to those in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Reports – Transportation, Waste, Buildings. The idea could look something like the following:

- The Town's climate action goals should be clearly stated.



- The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Reports should be made available for each year.
- Each month a category is highlighted. If the category is Transportation, the page that month could feature EV bikes, EV charging stations and news, etc.
- Keep a running graphic of what the Town's efforts are expected to do to meet our climate action goals and greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts for the year.

Michelle noted that the Town does not have a communications department. As projects like the Midland Avenue Streetscape get underway, the Town will require more professional consistency.

Michelle said the Green Team has four categories for next year's work plan. Education and outreach will be an ongoing effort.

The Green Team directed Sara to begin drafting an RFP to select a design professional to work on the website. The right firm should be someone who has some knowledge of the subject matter. The Green Team/Staff will continue to have oversight of what information is shared on the website.

Michelle sees this as a year-long relationship which could potentially extend into the future.

M/S Mike and Eileen to direct Staff to move forward with drafting an RFP for this webpage designer, and to bring this back to the Green Team for discussion prior to going live. Motion passed 3 to 0.

5. Basalt High School Environmental Club

Michelle is interested in getting a connection going with the High School's Environmental Club. She said there are currently four voting members of the Green Team, which can support up to seven. Michelle has invited two members of the Basalt High School Environmental Club to come and talk with the Town and share what they are working on. The Green Team can later decide if they want to invite them to sit on the board.

Michelle also has a connection with Aspen Global Change Institute who is interested in joining future Green Team meetings.

6. Member/Supporter Updates

- Chris Howard (Sunsense) reported that Sunsense is hiring in many positions, but mostly on the construction side. They are beginning an apprentice program in the near future to train for these positions.
- Amanda Poindexter (USGBS) reported that the Town's new Sustainable Building Regulations ordinance went into effect October 20th but she has had no new submittals yet. Amendments to these new regulations will be coming in the near future and will be presented to group.
- Dallas Blaney (CORE) said CORE is ramping up grant writing capabilities. CORE's priorities include going after rural electrification through Department of Energy, workforce development with EDE (meeting with Colorado Mountain College), rebuilding CORE's website from scratch, and developing a new communications strategy. With Phi's help CORE has had tremendous success

with Aspen's commercial benchmarking program that will extend into next year. CORE is hoping to expand that to other communities. Regarding the Coal Basin project, CORE has recently submitted a final batch of paperwork to unlock designated federal funds. Next year they anticipate undertaking a flow test to understand the true quantity and quality of the methane coming from Coal Basin. CORE is also working with Pitkin County on their microgrid project at the AABC with Holy Cross Energy.

- Phi Filerman (CORE) is helping to administer the approvals for a couple of heat pumps that will expend the Town of Basalt rebate funds. She is also working on APCHA program and reported significant funding provided in Pitkin County LMI for grants. She reported issuing \$100,000 in grant money for APCHA within the past four months.
- Mike Steiner (Holy Cross Energy) reported that the Tree Farm is installing a 2.5 megawatts solar array. At this time transformers can take up to a year to receive, depending on the size needed. Holy Cross is exploring moving around underutilized transformers. LMI is Holy Cross' focus for 2023. Mike also gave a shout out to Chris & Sunsense for their great work on local commercial projects.
- Eileen Fagan said she is going to be working with the Audobon Society this weekend on their annual bird to see where their populations stands.

7. Chair/Vice Chair

Charlie and Mike threw their hats in the ring for the positions of Chair. The vote will happen at the next meeting.

Eileen volunteered to be the Green Team representative on the logo committee.

M/S Charlie and Doug meeting at 4:58 pm. Motion passed 2 to 0. (Mike left prior to vote)