



January 13, 2022
7-8:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Peter Kraus, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Doug Price, Rabab Syed, Bob Wall

Guests: Brian Farnen, Elly Fatehi, Ted Luchsinger

1. Meeting Minutes

Jim Motavalli made a motion, Rabab Syed seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve as submitted.

2. Treasurer Report

\$6,753.33 remains in the SFTF account

3. Liaison Reports

a. Bike-Ped: Karen Secrist

Nothing to report

b. Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Misty Beyer

- **Stickers for Residential Recycling Bins**



Adapted from the recycling partnership

HELP FAIRFIELD CLEAN THE RECYCLING STREAM

NO !
Not in the bin

Put in trash	Wrap carefully and put in trash	Put in trash	Bring to Food retailer drop off bins	Put in trash
No Foam cups or packing materials	No needles or sharps	No black plastic food or garden containers	No plastic bags or plastic wrap	No SMALL plastics or pill bills or nips

IF IN DOUBT THROW IT OUT

Our RECYCLING CENTER can not accept many of the items Fairfield residents put in the bins such as propane canisters, large plastic children's toys or other plastics that are not food, laundry or beverage containers

YES !
Recycle



No plastic bags-- put recyclables loose in your bin

CLEAN Glass	CLEAN Cans	Mixed Paper	Beverage Cartons	CLEAN Plastic Containers	Cardboard Boxes
No caps	Aluminum foil and cans	No paper towels No shredded paper	Milk, Juice, other EMPTY with caps ON	Kitchen and Laundry EMPTY with caps ON	Flattened Remove inserts

The Sticker was “approved” by the SWRC. John will bring the sticker to haulers at the end of January. The town will cover the cost of the stickers. The transfer station employees are taking a closer look at what’s been put into the recycle

compactor. If the haulers are dumping contaminated products into the compactor, they will stop the hauler and make them pay to put their recycles into the waste compactor. The stickers will give the Haulers a way to stop contamination at the curbside. People are throwing everything you can imagine into the recycle bin - and why not – there is nothing to stop them. Hopefully the stickers are a good first step.

Next Step: Evaluate the current recycling programs in Schools, Businesses and Public Buildings.

Would like to know if anyone on the Sustainable Task Force would like to help the SWRC Education Committee develop a plan for evaluating the state of recycling in the commercial and public sector. Please contact mistybeyer@optonline.net.

- **Glass Recycling Container at Transfer Station**

The Glass Container from Oak Ridge arrived TODAY, 1/13/2021. Glass can be dropped off during business hours to the transfer station. It is time to release the floodgates of press releases, outreach to get our community to remove glass from single stream. It is very important that everyone knows how important it is to NOT CONTAMINATE this glass container with ceramics, dirty glass and bottle tops. That can get very costly. Oak Ridge will be responsible for carting the glass container to Urban Mining who will use the product to produce cement.

Next steps: Becky has outlined a plan for outreach to organizations in our community to help facilitate satellite drop off of glass.

- **Food Scrap Recycling**

The Commission did not address. The Education Sub-Committee is trying to organize a trip to Stamford Transfer Station with John Cattel and Lisa Gndt.

We will not have the new estimates for the ACR (which will reflect how much we pay for RECYCLED PRODUCTS) until the end of January. This number went down to \$76/ton for hauling and processing. The number may go up because of the cost of trucking this next quarter.

c. **Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue**

- Finalizing “Save our Mature Trees” messaging and process
- Shelton Flood & Erosion Control Board looking into using their powers to require private property owners to retain canopy / replace removed trees - need to research!
- Finalizing bid for trees Spring Tree Planting Program
- Still waiting for list of streets from UI for utility tree work
- Able to donate 9 trees from FBRA shade tree promotion on Fox & Quincy Streets

d. **Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell**

- Exploring the idea of whether a stormwater authority makes sense for the town of Fairfield. A storm water Authority would assess the storm water capabilities of our current storm water system and design a plan to upgrade to meet the needs of future more intense rain events and storm impacts. This is typically paid for by an assessment on property owners based on a percent of impermeable surface of their property.
- Evaluating various grant opportunities to offset the costs of Future Climate impacts.

e. **Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou**

- <https://earthplace.org/data-and-publications/>

4. Climate Leaders Program (through Sustainable CT)

- Mary and Bob met with Sustainable CT (SCT) and representatives of other towns on 12/21 and 1/22 to discuss program design and Fairfield’s interest in participating in this new pilot program. SCT selected various actions from the overall program menu

that provide a foundation for or actually achieve greenhouse gas emissions. Towns need to achieve 140 points to receive the Climate Leader designation. It appears that Fairfield has already received 100 points of credit in connection with various actions (subject to “lookback periods”.) We would need at least 40 additional points worth of actions, to be submitted either by SCT’s April or August deadlines, to receive the designation.

5. Sustainable States Network (SSN) Technical Assistance - Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- Following a technical assistance session with Becky, Doug, Mary and Bob and the Great Plains Institute, we have begun to gather town wide data to create a greenhouse gas inventory. Thus far, we have obtained multiple years of data for Fairfield’s residential, commercial and industrial sectors for electricity (from UI) and natural gas (from Southern CT Gas) as well as Vehicle Miles Traveled (from multiple sources). We are still seeking data pertaining to solid waste and non-gas heating sources.

6. [Sustainability Plan](#) Update

All modules need to have a lead assigned and need to be reviewed so that:

- Achievements to Date are current
- 2030 Goals are updated to be 2035 Goals
- Equity is embedded from the ground up

7. Reports for Sub-Committees

a. Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall

- Obtained townwide electricity and natural gas data from UI/Southern CT Gas for Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Obtained water data for WPCF needed for Portfolio Manager energy benchmarking’ sent to Amy Thompson
- Mary and Bob met with PACE on 1/7 re HeatSmart program

b. Transportation: Daphne Dixon

c. Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell

- We have tentatively scheduled a date for another Mattress Recycling Collection event at Veterans Park on Sat., April 23, 2022. Bob will appear before the Parks & Rec commission on Jan. 19 to secure formal approval.
- Glass recycling pilot will start at the transfer station as a drop off program. SFTF is crafting an outreach program to make residents aware of the initiative. Let Becky Bunnell know if your organization would be interested in helping collect and transfer glass to the transfer station each week. We will be contacting local churches as well.
- A sticker has been developed to go on all BLue bins to try to help residents become better recyclers. Town will print and coordinate distribution
- We are looking at a series of composting seminars , the first of which is set for Pequot on Earth day. We will also look at the option to run the discounted composter program again this year

d. Natural Environment: Mary Hogue

- [Sustainability Plan](#) update – Czar Ron Blumenfeld
- [Dark Skies presentation 1/31 7pm FPL](#) – Mary Hogue
- Invasive Plant working group – Ted Luchsinger
- [Native Plant Policy](#) – Mary Hogue, Ted Luchsinger, Amanda Ingrassia
- Review of [SFTF 2022 Goals](#) – group
- Fairfield Earth Day Celebration with Fairfield YMCA with their Health Kids Day event on 4/30/2022 – Larry Kaley

- e. Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - No meeting this month, more updates next month
 - Racial Equity and Justice Task Force has finished its blueprint. Next meeting is on 1/20 and the blueprint will be presented to BOS on 1/31.
 - Letter of support sent on behalf of the Wakeman Boys and Girls club of their Edible Garden so they could apply for a USDA grant. Food will go to Bridgeport and McKinley programs and perhaps Op Hope. Possibility of pollinator garden.
- f. Communication: Rabab Syed
 - **Town Website:** Recently drafted new suggested content for the "Going Green" page, forwarded to Mary H., Bob and you on 12/22. As noted in the subsequent back and forth with Mary, we need to resolve her suggestions about retaining some of the older achievements currently on the web page and also including non-SFTF achievements -- my suggested content included only SFTF's most recent achievements, which is a pretty lengthy list all by itself, plus short passing references to Earth Day and the Forestry Committee only. Also, we still need to fix the dead "Energy Savings Programs" link on the main page. I had suggested a while back having this link go to energizect.com, assuming we can link to external pages, but the link is still dead.
 - **SFTF Newsletter: Glass Recycling Pilot** - Currently working with Becky on a release re: the pending glass recycling pilot.
 - **Social Media:** Push out info on sub-committees with blurbs and meeting info times.
 - **Website:** Dustin upgraded it within \$25/month, but a 50% coupon was applied so it's \$150 for the first year instead of \$300 for this year! It's getting a visual overhaul. It'll function cleaner and the domain is updated shorter; the url is just sustainablefairfield.com! Home page is looking great! Added functionality to search is put in there. Links to social media and email are there.
 - **Newsletter:** Jim has content. Emma is working on importing emails and is testing it out. Dustin has the website set up. Working on the specifics for how to get the newsletter out.
- g. Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - [CTLCV Environmental Summit](#) 1/25 noon-2:30pm & 1/27 noon-2:30pm (note: separate link for lawmakers)
 - Legislative Session 2/9-5/4 (short session)
 - Bills can only be introduced by Committee not individual legislator unless it has a fiscal impact, so very few bills will be introduced / passed
 - Governor and all Legislators will be running for office this fall!

8. Old Business

9. New Business

Note: [Charter Revision Commission](#) & [Current Town Charter](#)
(every other Thu, all start 7pm; next meetings: Thu, 1/13; Thu, 1/27)