



February 10, 2022

7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Becky Bunnell, Kiersten Chou, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Peter Kraus, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O'Sullivan, Doug Price, Rabab Hussain, Bob Wall, Joan Zimmerman

Guests: Ted Luchsinger, Jason Koulouras, Calder McKay, Courney Radosavljevic, Jill Vergara

1. Meeting Minutes

Larry Kaley made a motion, Ron Blumenfeld seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve as submitted.

2. Treasurer Report

\$6,753.33 remains in the SFTF account. Becky Bunnell STILL has not been reimbursed by Town for the funds she expended for compost bins from spring 2021!

3. Liaison Reports

- Bike-Ped: Karen Secrist
 - We are in the early stages of exploring a painted bump out treatment at corner of Old Post Road. Senior Civil Engineer, Megha Jain, is helping with this. If we pursue, we would apply for Sustainable CT matching funds would want to coordinate that with Sustainable Fairfield.
 - Encourage everyone to read the [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) by DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg. Quick read and contains some discussion of auto carbon emissions and how to address it.
- Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Becky Bunnell for Misty
 - There was a discussion about the town glass pilot and everyone was encouraged to contact their local churches, schools and liquor stores to ask if they would be willing to help get the word out either by putting up a poster(posters are in the economic development office for pick up) or posting information in their newsletter. Sign up sheet below:
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JDQHNpxJsthuSj6HCNtgiW2m9BgSg9SvOYK0MB2J4KE/edit#gid=0>
- Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue
 - Working with SHU Computer Science department to have paper published and presented at Computer Science conference held in Thailand in March on Tree Planting Program and in Forestry Journal in April / May
 - Convening schools and organizations to allow everyone to share successes, failures and resources on gardening and other programming
 - Tree bid in, will be split between two vendors - a first! We hope this will allow us to get best trees from both vendors
 - Ryan Romeo to work with Trumbull on tree planting initiative, more to come!
- Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell

- FECB and Town Engineering submitted a CIRCA grant request to do cost benefit analysis for various resilience projects
 - The town is working with Bridgeport to replant a section of the Ash Creek sandbar to provide greater resilience against erosion.
- Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou
 - Nothing to report

4. **Sustainability Plan Update: Ron Blumenfeld**

- Need to get a lead person for each module, Outstanding Modules:
 1. Air Quality: Jim Motavalli
 2. Biking & Walking: Daphne Dixon
 3. Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation: Bob Wall & Larry Kaley
 4. Renewable Energy: Bob Wall & Larry Kaley
 5. Municipal and School Buildings: Bob Wall (to ask Bill Leavy)
 6. Sustainable Homes: Bob Wall (to ask Bill Leavy)

5. **Climate Emergency Resolution: Mary Hogue**

Noted that all other cities and towns where this has been done has been lead by youth. Ryan Romeo, our Local Lorax, is interested - are there other youth? Link has verbiage from other towns, please contact Mary if you are interested in helping to work on this. Link is to all the other cities and towns resolutions so that we can see what their wording is to prepare our own resolution.

6. **Reports for Sub-Committees**

- Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall
 - Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Bob set up a new folder in Google Drive including emissions data for electricity, natural gas and waste (back to 2019 only). Mary to add Vehicle Miles Traveled data. Doug has done research on non-gas heating fuels. Doug will prepare a checklist of items so we can reconvene with Great Plains Institute.
 - Sustainability Plan - Bob and Larry to update Efficiency and Renewable Energy; will ask Bill and Phil to update Municipal and School Buildings and Sustainable Homes modules.
 - Climate Leaders - Reviewed energy and built environment actions in new program; discussed "lookback" periods.
- Transportation: Daphne Dixon
 - Municipal Fleet
 - Town is looking into 20 EV chargers to support the upcoming municipal fleet.
 - EV Zoning Regulations
 - EV Zoning Regulations Blueprint, a document that outlines a step-by-step process to adopt EV Zoning Regulations, will be completed by 2/25 and presented to the Fairfield Planning and Zoning Staff and Commission to help support EV Zoning Regulation adoption
 - Fairfield University:
 - We have reached out to David Frassinelli, Operations Director at Fairfield University regarding electrifying Fairfield University's buses and shuttles. We have also offered to complete a fleet analysis for Fairfield University and have started on the analysis and awaiting some vehicle information from him. Have also reached out to DATTCO, their service provider.

- EVSE/Infrastructure Planning:
 - Just completed an EVSE Planning Map of Fairfield that indicates existing charging stations, as well as potential EVSE sites that we will provide to the town next week, along with information on United Illuminating's Make Ready Incentive Program.
- Electric School Buses:
 - Staying in touch with First Student and Angelus/Fairfield School District regarding electric school bus adoption.
- EV Road Trip:
 - EV Road Trip: CT - CA in a Mustang Mach E - Thanks to Jim Motavalli!! Daphne Dixon at the wheel with Alyssa Murphy of Live Green CT as navigator!!
- Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell
 1. **Waste Actions:**
 - There was a discussion on how to get the \$.05 rebate on alcohol minis earmarked for New recycling programs. The State legislature in Oct of 2021, passed a ruling that all municipalities would get a rebate on Acl minis 2 times a year that would be collected by the wholesalers based on retail orders during the prior period. It was agreed that we should draft a letter to Brenda encouraging her to earmark funds for this purpose. Jill Vargara also said that the RTM was looking into setting this aside as an earmarked fund similar to the way we approach affordable housing.
 - Trash at the Beach- There was a brief discussion that SFTF should take the lead on writing a letter to the Fairfield University leadership that could be signed by all the local environmental groups asking FU to take responsibility for the level of "Beach Litter " that their off campus students generate during the large parties and even on normal weekends, as cans and other items are being washed into our marshes and waterways due to student carelessness.
 - Glass Recycling pilot – Becky updated the group on outreach efforts for the glass recycling project. She will be sending out a google sign up sheet if anyone has the time to help put up 11 X 17 posters at local churches, liquor stores and any other area where you think people will respond.
 - Lee Sawyer Grant - Becky updated the group that we are still working with the town on how to fund the town's share of the EcoRich Food waste machine before we can officially accept the grant.
 - Recycling stickers for residential blue bins – Becky confirmed that these had been approved in the January SWR commission meeting and would be put on bins when the weather is warmer in the spring.
 - Mattress Recycling – Bob updated the group that Parks and Rec has signed off on the April 23 date: 8:30 – 12:30 at Veterans Park. He is now coordinating insurance certificates.
 - SMM Grant– Becky is working with the SWR town staff, local haulers and the SWR outreach committee on the DEEP SMM grant. It will need to address both Pay As You Throw as well as Food waste Recycling.
 - Composting Seminars and 25% discounted Composter program–Mary updated the group on the upcoming composting seminars. The Pequot Library will be running one on Earth Day and we are working with the Library to do ones at the main and Woods locations. Dan ran a seminar in January

for the Greenfield Garden Club which was well attended. We agreed to run the discounted composter program again this year.

- School programs – Mary updated the group on the various school programs that she is trying to coordinate. Mill Hill had received a grant for a fridge to rescue unused food and others are looking at that as well as various composting programs. Misty is also working with the schools on composting. Nicola volunteered to help in this initiative as well.
- Sharps – Jennifer updated the group on the issue of residential sharps disposal and some of the options she is looking into for this and other Bio waste.
- Trash on beaches – there was a brief discussion on what we and other environmental groups could do.

2. Food Updates

- Outreach on “sell by” dates and “buy by” dates to reduce food waste. Becky and Joan will set up some time this month to work on this with the idea that we would develop 10 – 15 Instagram ready messages that help people understand these dates and offer other tips to reduce food waste upfront.
- Natural Environment: Mary Hogue
 - Dark Skies had 82 sign ups, had 52 attendees, 8 follow-ups - really positive response! Will have follow-up presentations!
 - Shawn to work on 4/30 “Lights Out” during new moon region-wide event (more to come)
 - Working with all organizations that are working on gardening, composting, recycling efforts to have a meeting with everyone the week of 2/21-25
 - Pollinator Pathway team met with STEAM FPS team this week to work on Pollinator Curriculum for grades K-2 and to have Pollinator Gardens at all Elementary Schools
- Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - **Subcommittees working to update their Action Plan modules to include equity considerations**
 - Invited Digna A. Marte, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Fairfield Public Schools, to one of our meetings
 - **REJTF update:** REJTF presented their blueprint to the BOS on 1/31. Task Force members asked for a permanent body to be created and voted on at the following BOS meeting on 2/8 but this item was not on the agenda. First Selectwoman Kupchick plans to create an internal working group to discuss the blueprint with department heads and plans to hire an equity consultant with ARPA funds.
 - **Glass recycling:** Becky reached out to local religious organizations to promote the program. Additional contacts to be made with neighborhood associations, Operation Hope, Scout troops, college campuses and local stores. Potential problems discussed including participation by residents without a car or beach sticker.
 - **Energy:** Discussion of the need to make a new apartment building of 46 units sustainable - heat pumps, charging stations, etc.
 - **Natural Env.:** Tree rights flyers being distributed to educate residents that they can stop UI from removing trees
- Communication & Outreach: Rabab Syed
 - **Town Website:** There’s a bad link on our town page (an energy savings link). It just needs to get sorted out - suggested EnergizeCT
 - **SFTF Town Communication**

- **Press release/Newsfeed:** The most recent thing is the glass recycling, it's on the main Town newsfeed and just needs to go into the SFTF newsfeed on town website.
 - **Social Media:** Glass recycling pilot was pushed, getting shared a ton from town citizens and businesses (mo's wine and spirits) waiting on FAQs from Becky and Jim to make a second push. Pushed out info on sub-committees with blurbs and meeting info times, have two volunteers and need to vet.
 - **Website:** Need a feature article - decided on glass recycling pilot blog post. Resources page is organized, just needing info to input - like glass recycling and other town resources to make it easier for folks to access. Search icon is in the header. Earth Day Celebration and [Drive Electric Earth Day \(DEED\)](#) will be April 30th at the Fairfield Y during their Healthy Kids Day event (so a potential blog post for that).
 - **E-Newsletter:** Email addresses (60) have been imported into mailchimp. 3 items per e-newsletter. #1 SFTF #2 Glass recycling. Jim and Emma will discuss and decide on content and Dustin will help input and design the newsletter.
- Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Legislative Session runs 2/9/2022 - 5/4/2022
 - CTLCV Annual Environmental Summit extremely helpful in getting up to speed on what will be most pressing environmental issues in the legislature in this short session where bills can only be brought forward via committee NOT by individual legislators

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- Green Wheels Expo
 - Will become a standing agenda item and will be a monthly meeting that all SFTF members will be invited to attend
 - The old format does not work - folks just seeing the cars does not work, we need get them riding and driving the cars
 - Timing of the event may be determined on vehicle availability - Jim Motavali will be contacting manufacturers BUT timing of the event is the most important thing for the manufacturers in terms of their decision-making process
 - More volunteers are needed - need to start recruiting!
- Vote for annual HSSFF scholarship expenditure (post meeting)
 - email was received from HSSFF the day after our meeting so SFTF took an electronic vote on whether to approve the expenditure of \$500 (\$250 each for a student at Fairfield Ludlowe and Fairfield Warde High Schools) to be sent to the High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield.
 - The following members voted Yay: Jim Motavalli, Doug Price, Phil Levieff, Kiersten Chou, Emma Kaye, Shawn O'Sullivan, Ron Blumenfeld, Dustin Mandre, Mary Hogue, Becky Bunnell, Peter Kraus, Rabab Hussain Syed, Daphne Dixon, Bill Leavy, Jim Marren, Joan Zimmerman and Bob Wall
 - No one voted Nay
 - Scott Thompson and Larry Kaley have not yet responded; however, the vote of 17-0-0 is sufficient to proceed
 - The check is due 3/15 thus the vote was done via email before our next meeting in order to get to the foundation in time.

Note: [Charter Revision Commission](#) & [Current Town Charter](#)
(every other Thu, all start 7pm; next meetings: Thu, 2/10; Thu, 2/24)