



**March 10, 2022**

**7-8:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Ron Blumenfeld, Becky Bunnell, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Peter Kraus, Bill Leavy, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Shawn O'Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall, Joan Zimmerman

**Guests:** Will Hinkle, Mira Bakshi, Jenn Leeper, Brian Farnen, Courtney Radosavljevic

- **Meeting Minutes**

Becky Bunnell made a motion, Larry Kaley seconded, no comments or amendments, unanimously approved as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report**

Balance as of 3/3/2022 is \$6,253.33, down \$500 from 2/3/22 for our annual donation to the High School Scholarship Foundation of Fairfield (HSSFF).

- **Intern(s)**

Will Hinkle and Mira Bakshi, seniors at Fairfield Ludlowe High School requested to intern with Sustainable Fairfield 5/27-6/16 for 60 hours. In order to provide a well rounded perspective on sustainability and give help to all the Sustainable Fairfield committees, we will have interns attend all committee meetings as well as provide the opportunity for them to focus on their areas of interest.

- **Inaugural Newsletter: Jim Marren**

First newsletter went out, it will go out every other month. People can sign up to receive via the homepage of [SustainableFairfield.org](http://SustainableFairfield.org).

- **Fairfield Earth Day Celebration / [Drive Electric Earth Day \(DEED\)](#) / [Fairfield Y Healthy Kids Day](#): Mary Hogue**

4/30 10am-1pm @ Fairfield Y, 841 Old Post Road

Will have kids events, Mira Bikashi offered to have FLHS student volunteers again, Larry Kaley promises plants and other goodies to give away again, working on getting electric vehicles again

- **Liaison Reports**

- Bike-Ped: Karen Secrist

- No report

- Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Misty Beyer

- See Food & Waste Committee report

- Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue

- Canvassing in areas where UI is working (Greenfield Hill neighborhood) is paying off and people are less likely to agree to tree removals or aggressive tree pruning!

- Work continues with Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, Fairfield Public Schools, Grange and others ramping up for spring Pollinator Pathway efforts - pretty slow in the winter

- [3/30 Invasives Expert Panel via Aspetuck Land Trust Lunch & Learn](#): CT Invasive Plant Working Group, Aspetuck Land Trust, CT Audubon and MowGreen
    - First draft of Native Plants on Municipal Property reviewed by committee and updates are required, next step is review by Conservation and then Parks & Rec, then request approval by BOS
  - Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell
    - Great Marsh Island in the middle of Ash Creek between Fairfield and Bridgeport is getting planted with native grass this month - funding is provided by both Fairfield and Bridgeport. This is to help with erosion prevention / control.
    - 4/6 7pm 501 Kings Highway E (BOE) Meeting on Rooster River
    - 5/4 7pm 501 Kings Highway E (BOE) Meeting on Fairchild Wheeler
    - University of RI high impact wave study on coastline
  - Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou
    - see Flood and Erosion Control
    - Founder, Joy Shaw's 91st Birthday celebration
    - Concern over 4480 site that is currently with TPZ Commission
- [Climate Leaders Update](#): **Bob Wall**  
Working with Aniket Martins, FLHS Junior, and Amy Thompson, Consultant, to understand what data is missing and why and try to find that data.
- [Climate Emergency Resolution](#): **Daphne Dixon**  
No update yet but starting work on this, should have an update for the next meeting.
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
  - Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall
    - Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Doug will follow up with Becky and Mary regarding any missing data items and set up a meeting with Great Plains Institute.
    - Sustainability Plan - Bob and Larry completed updates on Efficiency & Renewable Energy; will check with Bill and Phil re Municipal and School Buildings & Sustainable Homes modules.
    - Climate Leaders - Brian and Bob confirmed "lookback" period for C-PACE is 3 years which would reduce completed projects to 3, worth 5 points
    - Heat Smart CT - discussed applying for Community Partnership Initiatives with UI. Pros: funding for mailers and collateral; Cons: one-year commitment and more administrative burden. Bob to check on the submission deadline.
  - Transportation: Daphne Dixon
    - Increase the ability for school districts to sign bus contracts to 10 years which would be more in line with the payback period for EV buses (SB92)
    - Grant due re: bad air quality
    - 20 chargers required to handle new fleet
    - EV Zoning Regs Blueprint Workshop coming soon
    - EV road trip this summer in Ford Mustang Mach-e Fairfield, CT - Fairfield, CA commencing June 6!
  - Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell
    - First pick up of glass pilot dumpster! Looking for secondary drop off sites. Poster campaign - [sign up sheet](#) on Google drive
    - Looking into a food waste drop off at the Transfer Station, will not be pursuing EcoRich machines and will have to if we can use the DEEP funds we were awarded for that to do this. Would like to provide 250 started kits to Town residents to help promote the program

- Alcohol mini surcharge (\$.05) April check will likely be small but October check expected to be approximately \$100k. Funds are required to be used for improving / increasing recycling.
- Natural Environment: Mary Hogue
  - See Forestry update
  - Peter Kraus writing an article on Dark Skies for the Pollinator Pathway Northeast newsletter
  - Clean up of North Stratfield garden scheduled for 4/9 afternoon, Girl Scout Troop to beautify in May
  - Presentation to Wakeman Keystone Club by Amanda Ingrassia scheduled for evening of 3/22, follow up workshops in April, plant herbs and clean up on Mother's Day, 5/8, finalize plant list for formal garden at sign soon
- Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
- Communication & Outreach: Rabab Syed
  - **Outreach:**
    - 3/31 noon-1:30pm Lunch & Learn: Invasives Panel Discussion – Organized by Fairfield Pollinator Pathway Co-Director, Ted Luchsinger, facilitated Emmett Varricchio, Co-Chair, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG), panelists include Lou Bacchiocchi, Land Stewardship Director, Aspetuck Land Trust, Stefan Martin, Habitat Steward Connecticut Audubon Society and Dan Delventhal, AOLCP, MBA, Founder & CEO, MowGreen, LLC
    - Compost Workshops (Dan Martens & Mary Hogue), followed by 30 minute Recycling What's In, What's Out Workshops by Becky Bunnell
      - 4/22 - Every Day is Earth Day 10-11am Bigelow Senior Center & noon-1pm Pequot Library
      - 4/4 7-8pm Fairfield Woods - still working on setting this up, will probably set something up for the Main branch as well.
    - 4/30 10am-1pm – Annual Fairfield Earth Day Celebration in tandem with Fairfield Y (National) Healthy Kids Day, 841 Old Post Road. Also a registered Drive Electric Earth Day (DEED) event and looking into a possible \$3k grant.
    - Becky & Elly Fatehi Created a Glass Pilot Quiz for kids that was distributed via Peachjar (goes to all public school parents) for free.
    - Working with Becky to brand What's In, What's Out and Glass Pilot flyers for Fairfield Ludlowe, Sacred Heart and anyone who we talk with, with their school colors, mascot, etc. Hoping to work with Fairfield U and Fairfield Warde to do the same.
  - **SFTF Town Communication Press Release/Newsfeed:** Putting out the newsletter info.
  - **Social Media:** Newsletter, Glass recycling pilot, Forestry info on tree project - all will start rotational promos.
  - **Website:** Focusing on newsletter and earth day info.
  - **E-Newsletter:** First ever newsletter is ready to go! Will get sent out as the March 2022 edition!
- Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - (With thanks to Rep Jenn Leeper) Bills we're keeping a keen eye on:
    - SB4 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT.

- SB92 - AN ACT PERMITTING TEN-YEAR CONTRACTUAL PERIODS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUSES.
- HB5034 - AN ACT PROHIBITING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM CONSIDERING LEGACY PREFERENCES IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS.
- SB120 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CHLORPYRIFOS ON GOLF COURSES AND NEONICOTINOIDS FOR NON AGRICULTURAL USE.

- **Old Business**
- **New Business**

**Note:** [Charter Revision Commission](#) & [Current Town Charter](#)

(every other Thu, all start 7pm; next meetings: Thu, 3/10; Thu, 3/24)