



**April 14, 2022
7-8:30pm
Meeting Minutes**

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

Guests: Roberta Clark, Ted Luchsinger, Will Haskle, Sherry Greer, Mira Bakshi, Elly Fatehi, David Downie, Jenn Leeper

- **Meeting Minutes**

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

- **Treasurer Report**

Balance as of 3/31/2022 is \$6,253.33

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

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

- See [2022 FEDC Groups Attending spreadsheet](#) for more information
- Many thanks to Courtney Radosavljevic for her patient assistance with designing flier, FairTV add and banner
- Looking for EV owners to park their cars at the event **Daphne noted that calling Janet at the Westport Police station might get the EV Police car to our event. Rabab offered to make the call.**

- **Fairfield U Sustainability Fair: Mary Hogue**

- Looking for volunteers to man a table 5/1 12:30-4:30pm (event runs 1-4pm) Thank you Shawn O'Sullivan for signing up immediately!
- Jim Marren included in press release went out this morning and on website and social media

- **Liaison Reports**

- Bike-Ped: TBD
 - 5/1 9am-noon Jennings Beach Bike Rodeo
- Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Misty Beyer
 - See Food & Waste Committee report
 - Problems with the compactor
 - 20k recycling stickers going to printer; haulers will be applying to residents' bins end of May
 - Glass pilot can be for 1.5 yrs per DEEP, already have collected 1.5 dumpsters worth of glass but this is really not much, yet Commission is not excited about secondary drop off sites mostly due to liability issues

- Alcohol mini letter from SFTF sent to BOS, BOF and RTM - state statute **requires** funds be used for recycling education and improvements
 - Litter on the beach letter from SFTF
 - Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue
 - Continuing to canvass where UI is cutting and trimming (Greenfield Hill) - it's helping! Looking for volunteers
 - Spring is here, which means LOTS of activity on the Pollinator Pathway!
 - [Aspetuck Land Trust Native Plant Sale](#)
 - Planting several Commemorative Trees in Lake Mohegan open space
 - Started Spring Tree Planting Season this week
 - Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell
 - FERB is working with the town of Bridgeport on a potential National Fish and Wildlife grant for the Ash creek area.
 - Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou
 - MRWC continues to follow developments with respect to the application for development of 4480 Black Rock Turnpike property that is adjacent to Cricker Brook, a tributary to the Mill River. MRWC submitted a letter to Inland Wetlands, which was read into the record at their last meeting. Aquarion has also written a letter detailing their concerns about the application.
 - MRWC has a few projects they would love volunteers for, in particular would love student volunteers for River Lab trips, so if you know someone looking for opportunities, please email office@mrwc-fairfield.org
- **[Climate Leaders Update](#): Bob Wall**
 - The Energy, Transportation, Natural Environment and Food & Waste Committees should review the actions in [Climate Leader document](#) to determine what, if anything, needs to be done to earn credits for previously completed actions (pay close attention to "look back" period) and see whether any new actions can be completed before the **August 23** submission deadline.
- **[Climate Emergency Resolution](#): Daphne Dixon, Will Hinkle, Mira Bakshi**
 - Daphne will schedule a follow up meeting for all those interested in helping to work on this
 - Need to align goals in this resolution with other documents, e.g. our Sustainability Plan modules
 - Need to simplify language, e.g. use Fahrenheit, which is standard in the USA, versus Centigrade
 - Be precise about language, e.g. power versus electricity
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall
 - a. Doug to send Great Plains Institute update and request follow-up meeting
 - b. HS Student Aniket Martins is working on a project to consolidate information on all town solar systems to earn points for Climate Leaders and provide data to end moratorium on solar
 - c. We reviewed Sustainability Plan modules on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to make goals realistic and align with Climate Emergency Resolution
 - Transportation: Daphne Dixon

- Fairfield Police will likely not pursue getting a Tesla because they are all different but rather get a Ford Mach-e and possible an F-150 Lightning because they come in a standardized form
- Fairfield Police Chief Kalamaras will be moderator for a webinar on 6/29 with Westport Police Chief Koskinas, along with officers from TX and KS .
- Working with Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Operations for Fairfield Public Schools; Nick Aysseh, BOE; Finance Department and First Student, Bus Contractor on getting EV school buses for Fairfield: EPA grant at end of May probably not going to be available to Fairfield as its for distressed communities but Fairfield is looking into getting a Type A bus using DERA grant funding
- Jim Motavali noted that CA just passed a law requiring ALL vehicles be EV by 2035 and CT has long followed CA emissions standards and perhaps we can push this. Daphne Dixon noted that because there are “hidden” infrastructure expenses behind the meter even if the EV bus is 100% funded the infrastructure costs can sometimes kill the deal so PURA needs to help to fix this problem.
- Daphne Dixon noted that her LiveGreenCT group is holding an EV Regs Blueprint workshop on 4/28 and Fairfield Assistant Planner, Emmeline Harrigan, and SFTF member, Mary Hogue are registered.
- Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell
 - Waste Actions:
 - a. Glass Recycling pilot – Becky updated the group that we are now part way into our second container. We have several options for a drop off secondary location: ward and Ludlow High schools as well as possibly Shoprite on Black rock Turnpike. Becky To follow up with Town on possible logistics of setting up Secondary drops.
 - b. Lee Sawyer Grant and possible Food waste program- Becky has contacted DEEP to explore the option of reworking the Lee Sawyer grant to cover a more traditional food waste drop off versus the proposed Digester. No word back at this point.
 - c. Recycling stickers for residential blue bins – These are in production,
 - d. Mattress Recycling – Bob updated the group on the logistics of the April 23 event.
 - e. SMM Grant– Becky updated the group that the town has elected NOT to pursue this at this time.
 - f. Composting Seminars and 25% discounted Composter program–Mary and Dan will be doing programs at the Bigelow center and Pequot in April.
 - g. Alcohol Minis funds – A letter went out this week to BOS, BOF and RTM requesting that the funds from this program be earmarked for new recycling pilots and litter programs.
 - h. Trash on the beaches – A letter was sent out last week to the town requesting support to address this issue
- Natural Environment: Mary Hogue
 - See Forestry update
 - [Friends of Lake Mohegan](#) taking off! First event, Invasive Plant Walk, held 4/9/2022 led by CT Audubon Land Steward, Stefan Martin, was well attended though shortened due to rain and thunder.
 - [Met with Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Operations for Fairfield Public Schools, on more than just Natural Environment issues.](#)

- Attended Parks & Rec Master Plan Workshop and would like to request they present it to Sustainable Fairfield. Have a working document of other items and would like to suggest we collaborate with other environmental organizations on this and other major initiatives happening in town: Charter Revision, Plan of Conservation and Development, Affordable House Plan Update
- Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Alcohol “minis” tax - Becky and Shawn drafting a letter to BOS, BOF and RTM encouraging use of funds received for alcohol “minis” tax to be used for recycling initiatives. Potential for additional wording to include equity as recycling costs are expected to increase as burn plants reach capacity and need repair. (UPDATE: RTM responded re: use of funds is a BOF issue)
 - Funds also plan to be used for food waste drop off at FF transfer station (!)
 - Food recovery programs being implemented at Riverfield and Dwight (already in progress at Mill Hill) - uneaten food donated to community center in Bridgeport
 - Mattress recycling - potential for volunteers to pick up from elderly/low income households? Rent Uhaul? Involve high schoolers? **Will Hinkle noted that he is a good contact for connecting with the Scouts for this. Bob and Will will connect.**
 - Glass drop off at FF farmer’s market this summer? Potential to involve high school students
 - Heat pump project - potential to support low income and elderly households. Problems exist re: landlords/renters and disconnect between who pays bills and who installs upgrades
- Communication & Outreach: Rabab Syed
 - Amanda I is on the Parks & Rec Master Plan. They are saying SFTF are working with them, but SFTF is not. Amanda is writing letter to have turf folks present to SFTF and abide by pollinator pathway etc. We need to attend more of their meetings. They are NOT recording their presentations.
 - 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) Heathy Kids Day, 841 Old Post Road. Also a registered Drive Electric Earth Day (DEED) event and looking into a possible \$3k grant. Must be a drive and ride event so if it's too much trouble we won’t do it.
 - Bigelow Tea invited us to participate in the opening of their garden.
 - Charter revision
 - POCD/ Zoning regulations - lots happening.
 - Fairfield U Sustainability Fair Event (potential table) - May 1st 1pm - 4pm (can get word out on blog and social media).

SFTF Town communication Press release/Newsfeed: Earth Week Press release will be in Brenda’s Newsletter. SFTF Newsletter Flash for Earth Week Events - will get it out on thursday.

Social Media: Earth Week Promos.

Website: Earth Week Info & Links - Shawn will get the press release on website as a blog.

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday in May -May 10th, 2022 at 7 pm

- Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - There are at least four major initiatives going on in Town that are far-reaching and long lasting that will affect how the town is run and will affect the environment. We should collaborate with our fellow environmental and sustainability-minded groups to cover these and ensure that environmental and sustainability is embedded into these plans: (1) Parks & Rec Master Plan, (2) Plan of Conservation and Development, (3) Charter Revision Commission and (4) Affordable Housing Plan Update.

- **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)