



May 3, 2022
7-8:30pm
Meeting Minutes

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

Guests: Roberta Clark, Will Hinkle

- **Meeting Minutes**

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

- **Treasurer Report**

- Balance as of 5/3/2022 is \$6,253.33

- **Liaison Reports**

- Bike-Ped: TBD

- 5/1 Bike Rodeo 9-noon a big success! Peter Krauss will write a blog about it.

- Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Becky Bunnell

- Meeting on Monday: one of the compactors is broken, problem with the roof; working working on making operations more efficient; Food Waste Recycling Drop-off with 250 starter kits (counter top bin, toter bin, BPI bags) to give out with one Solid Waste & Recycling Commission's Outreach Committee member complaining that this has not been agreed upon by the committee but the entire SWRC and John Cattel is in favor of the initiative

- Website woefully out of date; SWRC has been working on updating for a year

- Second glass container picked up; each container holds 4 tons; Fairfield throws out 1,200 tons of glass annually

- Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue

- Spring Tree Planting Program planting almost complete - highly unusual to be done so early - have really improved our efficiencies this year!

- Held Arbor Day celebration with Riverfield Brownie Troop 30447 on Arbor Day (last Friday in April) 4/29 with 3 native dogwoods and 1 elm planted by edge of Riverfield playground

- Canvassing Greenfield Hill where UI is doing state mandated tree trimming / removal work to educate homeowners of their tree rights is “working”! People are not getting trees cut / trimmed as dramatically as in the past but we also notice that there may be a cultural affinity for trees in this neighborhood that may be higher than in other neighborhoods.

- Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell

- Exploring a National Fish and Wildlife Grant for Ash Creek and Jennings area (Sand Spit and Great Marsh Island and remove invasives and plant natives)

- Starting with ARPA funding for 4 sites

- High intensity Wave Action initiative will be starting soon
 - Rooster River set by 3-6 months, DEEP requiring more details
 - Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou
- **Climate Leaders Update: Bob Wall**
 - Need input from (1) Food & Waste, (2) Energy & Built Environment, (3) Transportation and (4) Natural Environment
- **Fairfield Climate Emergency Resolution Draft: Daphne Dixon, Will Hinkle, Mira Bakshi**
 - Due to timing of this meeting and AP exams need to relax timing
 - Bob Wall noted that in comparing current draft to other towns resolutions the current draft ours is much more strident than other and could cause our resolution to fail
 - Daphne Dixon noted that this would be presented privately prior to the public presentation so that it would be a collaboratively created document. To that end, Becky Bunnell suggested going to the Department heads that are responsible for the “whereas” clauses to get them to collaborate on the verbiage
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall
 - Still working on chasing down missing data in Portfolio Manager
 - Transportation: Daphne Dixon
 - Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Operations of Fairfield Public Schools, has meeting with First Student with their grants team and look at at least five buses in second round of EPA grants; first round only for distressed communities
 - Angelus will set up meeting with UI for infrastructure to power buses
 - LiveGreenCT held a EV Zoning Workshop - Mary Hogue (SFTF member) and Emmeline Harrigan (TPZ Assistant Planning Director) of Fairfield attended
 - Bob Wall asked about “Anti-Idling” signs / campaign
 - CTRides “Drive Less CT Challenge” - we have promoted via social media (thank you Rabab!)
 - Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell
 - Second glass container has been picked up
 - Have written proposal for a Food waste drop off at the transfer station; will be reviewed at the May SWR meeting
 - May need some help coordinating getting 250 starter kits assembled and distributed
 - Two compost workshops
 - 69 mattresses at 4/23 drop-off event
 - What’s In What’s Out stickers being applied to resident’s stickers by haulers this month
 - Natural Environment: Mary Hogue
 - 4/30 Healthy Kids / Earth Day (~ 300 people attended; see https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kr8yY_ovv-MApjwiHPJmDqJeknnhXKQH66_gQSpdnOo/edit?usp=sharing for list of participants; once again Joan wins the prize for helping at an event!!!)
 - Everyone that can come to help please come – and that has a plug-in hybrid or all electric car, please bring your car to park and showcase. Thank you!
 - Forestry Committee Canvassing tomorrow and Saturday 3-5pm
 - Everyone that can help canvas 4/29, please contact Eileen O’Reilly. Everyone that can help canvas 4/30, please contact Peter Krauss. Thank you!

- 5/1 Fairfield U Sustainability Fair (~100 people attended, all students)
Shawn O’Sullivan and Mary Hogue will be representing at this event. Thank you!
- Climate Emergency Resolution (CER)
Mary Hogue shared that the point of passing the CER is really to be able to then point to town leaders that the Town has agreed that we are in a Climate Emergency so therefore we should (fill in the blank) – remove the moratorium on putting solar panels on new roofs (we have three new schools roofs but refuse to put solar on them, we have a waste crisis in CT yet we refuse to consider unit based pricing which we know will reduce our waste and save residents and the town a considerable amount of money, we refuse to have secondary drop off sites for our glass pilot but if we remove glass from our waste stream we could get more money for our paper and cardboard recyclables which would bring more income to the Town and save the Town and residents money, etc. Having so much detail in our CER will likely make it unable to pass and perhaps moving those details into our Sustainability Modules is where they best suited and then to include an item in the CER that requires that the Sustainability Plan be updated and approved by the Board of Selectmen, which means those goals are officially approved by the Town would still happen.
- [Town of Fairfield Native Plant Policy for Muni Places](#)
Long discussion on the definition of “right-of-way” and there is a clear division of opinion of what that is. This needs to be addressed. Need to consult with the Town Attorney. Currently being created by the Forestry Committee, which is under DPW, the moving to Conservation and finally going to Parks & Rec before being reviewed by the Town Attorney and then for formal approval by the Board of Selectmen. This is modeled off of the policy passed in Newtown and which many other towns are working.
- Op-Ed on Planting Trees and Eco-Justice (based on Hamden’s op-ed)
This discussion did not go far but all agreed this was a good idea to continue.
- Racial and Environmental Justice is a Public Health Issue (based on Racial Equity and Justice Task Force (REJTF) recommendation and discussed at RTM meeting this Monday)
This discussion did not go far but all agreed this was a good idea to continue.
- Friends of Lake Mohegan (FOLM) are having their first meeting on 5/21 10-11:30am to do a clean up. For anyone that would like to sign up to be part of the group you do so [here](#).
- Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Food waste drop off program funded by alcohol mini’s to be approved in May. Composting kits to be distributed by SFTF (Emma volunteered to help in Becky’s absence). Potential distribution sites, signage locations and newsletter features: Transfer station, town hall, farmer’s market, library, Operation Hope, Fairfield Human Services, Bigelow, neighborhood associations, churches, temples. Emma to discuss with communication team. Discussed potential for: a) secondary site, b) saving some kits for low income/elderly/other families, c) library program
 - Potential for glass drop off sites through Parks and Rec.
 - Get in other groups’ newsletters that we have relationships with
 - RTM voted against Racial Justice is a Public Health issue
- Communication & Outreach: Rabab Syed

- - Newsletter: We promoted via a FLASH newsletter in the month of April all of Sustainable Fairfield's Earth Week Events. Gearing up for May's newsletter, folks who'd like to promote events should send content over to Jim Marren.
- - Social Media: Promoted SF's Earth Week events and documented them with pictures and write ups. Currently promoting CT rides drive less challenge for May and No Mow May, along with FOLM clean up and glass recycling Pilot (May need to get creative with it as the engagement is down considerably for glass recycling Pilot).
- - Website: Dustin working on archiving and cross promoting events.
- Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Legislative session ends tomorrow!!!
 - Got some really BIG environmental wins
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**

Note: [Charter Revision Commission](#) & [Current Town Charter](#)
(every other Thu, all start 7pm; next meetings: Thu, 5/12)