



Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Becky Bunnell, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Rabab Hussain, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Bill Leavy, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O’Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

Liaisons: none

Guests: none

August 11, 2022

7-8:30pm

Meeting Agenda

- **SFTF Membership:** due to family and life issues Joan Zimmerman has resigned from the Task Force but asked to remain on the distribution list to be kept informed of our work. She was honored to be part of the group and enjoyed working with everyone.
- **Meeting Minutes**
Ron Blumenfeld made a motion, Jim Motavalli seconded, no comments or amendments, unanimously approved as submitted.
- **Treasurer Report**
Balance as of 8/11/2022 is \$5,447.33. Ron Blumenfeld, SFTF Treasurer, noted this is due to payment to Becky Bunnell of \$125 for compost bins. Becky Bunnell noted that there should have been a check for the same amount that was taken out of our account transferred from the Parks & Rec Department from the folks that paid for the compost bins therefore our balance should have remained the same. Ron Blumenfeld said he would research this and report at our next meeting.
- **Liaison Reports**
 - **Bike-Ped:** TBD
New [Greenfield Hill 18-mile bike route](#) coming soon!
 - **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
 - We have had two amazing tours of the Oak Ridge Recycling MRF. Misty took some videos of Joe Sardone discussing the red hot issues that need to be addressed.
 - Last tour is on Wed, 8/24. All tour participants will be invited to join a Clean the Stream Action and Awareness Committee. We have had a state representative,

DPW staff, school reps, writers and members from Sustainable Fairfield. **If anyone is interested in joining us, let [Misty Bayers](#) know.** We will work on getting a tour of Wheelabrator and Urban Mining together at the end of September and early Oct.

- Sat, 8/27, 9am - 2pm at Veteran's Park, 909 Reef Road [Hazardous Waste Day 2022](#)
- Top 5 Tips to **Clean the Stream**:
 1. Don't put plastic bags of any kind into the blue recycling bin.
 2. All plastics, paper in bin should BE CLEAN!
 3. Remove all plastic foam and packaging from inside boxes.
 4. Your recyclables should be dry!
 5. Separate your glass - deposit at your local transfer station.
- **Fairfield Forestry Committee**: Mary Hogue
 - 115 trees sold for Fall Tree Planting Program, no Commemorative Trees at this time; will be ending selling season soon
 - Will be submitting testimony to PURA on dockets [17-12-03RE08, PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies – Resilience and Reliability Standards and Programs](#) and [21-05-15, PURA Investigation into a Performance-Based Regulation Framework for the Electric Distribution Companies](#)
 - Thu, 7/11 5-8pm Amanda Ingrassia manned a table at the Ganim's Ladies Night Out fundraiser - lots of interest for Pollinator Pathway!
 - Sat, 7/16 10am-4pm Ted Luchsinger and Mira Bakshi manned a table at the Fairfield Sidewalk Sale - no bites! Need to have kids activities!!
 - Sat, 7/30 10-11am, Friends of Lake Mohegan (FOLM) held Invasive Plant id & pull - signed up two new members Working with Pequot and Fairfield Woods Seed Libraries to carry native seeds that are hard to find, e.g. jewelweed, milkweeds, etc.
 - Plans to install native plant garden at Bigelow Senior Center once their patio is complete (no start date set - waiting for materials to arrive / supply chain issues)
 - Working with PTAs to rejuvenate school gardens to install native plant gardens
 - Met with passionate gentleman interested in preserving native plants and trees at Southport Beach; working to connect him with others that would be interested in creating a "Friends of" group to help maintain and create a Pollinator Pathway focus to the area
- **Flood and Erosion Control**: Becky Bunnell
 - Written update for the minutes: 2 Rooster River detention basin projects have been approved and are in final permit stages; The Perrys Green project has been started. Several other projects to replace and update tide gates are about to be started.
- **Mill River Wetland Committee**: Kiersten Chou
 - Nothing to report, no activity / meeting this month
- **PTA Council**: Meghann McKale
 - Fairfield Public School's 'green' parents have launched a district-wide Green Team to support parents and faculty at all 16 schools who want to make their campus

more sustainable. We are aiming to recruit parents, students, faculty and staff in our efforts.

- Green Teams are launching Instagram accounts, too, so be sure to check out @MillHillGoesGreen, @DwightGoesGreen, @NSSGoesGreen, and many more to come, as they spread the word about our efforts
- Check out our new [logo](#) and [logo with a mission statement](#).
- We're planning:
 - "Sustainability Tips of the Week" to be consistent through all weekly PTA email newsletters
 - thin plastic recycling through Trex
 - Halloween costume exchanges
 - pumpkin composting, and much more
- **MetroCOG:** Quin Wolters
 - Last day is tomorrow - THANK YOU Quin!
- **[Climate Emergency Resolution](#):** Shawn O'Sullivan (if you want [redlined version](#))
Need another CER-specific meeting
- **[Climate Leaders Update](#):** Bob Wall, Mira Bakshi, Quin Wolters, Mary Hogue
Due 8/23, Quin has submitted all work completed as of today (her last day is tomorrow!). We already have enough points to achieve this certification but still working on obtaining more points.
- **HeatSmart Campaign:** Bob Wall, Mira Bakshi, Becky Bunnell, Mary Hogue
Working with PACE to start at campaign, especially focused on low and middle-income (LMI) households and hope to work with Bridgeport as well
- **Green Wheels Expo**, Sat, 10/1, 10am-2pm FLHS parking lot (Unquowa Road)
 - Best way to do Drive & Rides is for the manufacturers is to handle them with Marketing firms
 - Supply chain problems mean that
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
 - No meeting in August
 - Independently, Mary, Mira and Bob continued to obtain solar data from third-party owners to update energy benchmarking and assess performance of town's solar projects.
 - Mary, Becky, Doug and Bob continue to work on gathering data for a Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory. Simultaneously, we have engaged in discussions with PACE and Sustainable CT regarding a tool that can be used statewide for such an inventory.
 - Preparing for a fall launch of Heat Smart CT and will need to have an ad hoc meeting to discuss outreach plans, communications and equity considerations. Several presentations at the Local libraries and Senior center are in the process of Being scheduled for November and December

- **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
 - **Electric School Buses** - EPA Clean School Bus Rebate Program - Application due 8/19. All school districts in CT are eligible and EPA Region 1 encourages all school districts to apply, Fairfield is not prioritized - but there is still a chance that if the school district submitted an application, that they could receive a rebate of \$250,000 per bus. School districts can apply for up to 25 electric school buses.
 - A Fairfield Board of Ed representative has said that “Fairfield is not in the business of buying buses, that is handled by our vendor. Meetings with First Student’s national folks focused on electric buses have been held and they know we are on board with exploring the option - when the big federal grant opens up the phase where a town like Fairfield qualifies.” Daphne Dixon let the BOE representative know that Fairfield is eligible now.
 - Other non-prioritized school districts are working with their providers to apply for the rebate.
 - Daphne Dixon spoke with her contact at First Student and he is going to make sure the issue is clarified for the Fairfield BOE.
 - It is important to note that First Student is only supporting school districts that are prioritized, Fairfield is not one of those communities.
 - **Police Vehicles** - sent the VW grant for EV charging stations to Chief Kalamaras
- **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell
 - Bob tentatively reserved Veteran’s Park on Oct. 22 from 8:30-12:30 for the next mattress recycling collection event. Need to appear before Parks & Rec for approval. Will require our usual communications package of press release, FS newsletter and social media.
 - The glass recycling program is getting more awareness and we have now filled 5 large containers but we need to keep promoting
 - The Food waste drop off program has been approved and components for starter kits have been ordered. We will need help putting them together and getting Residents to sign up for the program. Operation Hope has agreed to take 20 kits. The formal program start date has not been set but likely early september. The program will be funded by the DEEP Lee Sawyer grant as well as the Alc Mini funds. In addition Novamont helped fund the purchase of Bags for the starter kits.
 - The Recycling stickers are slowly working their way onto Residents bins but most residents do not yet have them. We are working with the schools to adapt teh stickers.
- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
 - No meeting in July
 - Working with PTAs to set up Green Teams - focus is on elementary level, working with Central Office to set up Google Forms to use technology to streamline process to setup systems for various sustainability initiatives
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Need to streamline messaging and increase distribution re: In/Out stickers
 - Compost:

- 20 compost kits being given to Op Hope for clients, potential to compost in their kitchen as well
 - Other potential compost kit distribution spots: senior centers, apartment buildings, PTAs
 - Compost demonstrations being planned at library and Bigelow
 - HeatSmart presentation at library - finding date, must find presenters (potentially Green Bank, Abode, PACE)
 - Grants for municipal and low income EV charging stations - discussed how to find eligible neighborhoods (CT Data Haven, reduced lunch families, Parish Ct and others)
 - Tabling at Fairfield Fall events - fall festival, santa visit. Need giveaway or kid activity, volunteers
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Syed
 - **Outreach:** Mary - Need a rep from the Energy Committee to start getting into the loop about our heat pump program.
 - **SFTF Town communication Press release/Newsfeed:** Jim Marren - Possible item on Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling Facility?
 - **Social Media:** Rabab -Pushing out recycling Steps (1 & 2). Possible SFS video on Oak Ridge waste & recycling as well.
 - Local sustainable business posts with trinity solar (operation hope) and everneat.co
 - **Website:** Dustin - Any more items get sent in from committees to take live?
 - **E-Newsletter:** Whole Group - September feature
 - GWE 2022
 - School Green Teams feature
 - Possibly approaching other local news outlets to feature our newsletter as a sustainability column - as long as that doesn't require a sponsor.
- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - No report since last meeting

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