



**September 8, 2022**

**7-8:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Becky Bunnell, Kiersten Chou, Rabab Hussain, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Bill Leavy, Jim Marren, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O'Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

**Liaisons:** Meghann McKale

**Guests:** Nick Alexander, Connor Cowan, James Cunningham

- **Meeting Minutes**

Rabab Hussain made a motion, Shawn O'Sullivan seconded, no comments or amendments, unanimously approved as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report**

Balance as of 9/8/2022 is **\$6,128.33**. Recent reimbursement of **\$125.00** to Becky Bunnell for lawn signs letting folks know about recycling opportunities happening in town that are being circulated around the schools.

NOTE: the composter reimbursement issue noted at the last meeting has been resolved; SFTF was credited for the \$806 reimbursement to Becky Bunnell.

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD

- Sarah Roy, current chair, will be stepping off the committee after the October meeting - anyone interested in joining the committee please [apply on the Town website](#)

- **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer

- See Food & Waste report; Misty Beyer is out of town

- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue

- Fall Tree Planting Program closed, taking orders for Spring 2023

- **Flood and Erosion Control:** Becky Bunnell

- Rebuilding Penfield Pavilion options - recommending building at higher elevation
- Feeding input into the POCD on resilience framework

- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou

- Looking for board members / volunteers - will promote in newsletter and social media

- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale

- Theme for 2022-23 is "Connect, Collaborate, Innovate"
- 9/23, Fridays for Future Rally at Sherman Green - all are welcome, please join us!
- Pumpkin recycling after Halloween - see Food & Waste

- Setting up Green Teams / CT Green LEAF Schools at all schools - look for students, parents, teachers especially at middle schools
  - All schools are encouraged to do plastic film (plastic bags) recycling with Trex
  - Contact Meghan McKale at [fpacsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:fpacsustainability@gmail.com) for more info any of this
- **Ad Hoc Committee for By-Laws:** Bob Wall  
Looking for anyone interested, please contact Bob
- **Climate Leaders Update:** Bob Wall, Mary Hogue
    - Submitted application, awaiting confirmation of certification from Sustainable CT
    - ALSO, Sustainable CT is working on Gold Certification which is what we will likely be going for in 2024, when we will need to recertify and will likely recertify for Climate Leaders at that time as well
- **HeatSmart Campaign:** Bob Wall, Becky Bunnell
    - Working on setting up dates with Main, Woods and Pequot Libraries and Senior Center for presentations
- **Green Wheels Expo:** Rabab Hussain  
Due to supply shortage there really is no sense to have the event. We cannot get any vehicle to highlight, e.g. Rivian, Ford F-150, etc. Time is running out to pull together. Ride and drive is an essential component and therefore we need the manufacturers to participate. EV Car Club is really mostly Teslas and not really a draw for an audience. Can do something in the spring / tie into our Earth Day event. Do we need to do a GWE when there are Super Bowl spots selling EVs several times over?
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
    - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
      - Did not meet officially
      - Completed energy-related actions for Climate Leaders including 7.4 Increase Renewable Energy Use (16%); arranged for free audit of Wastewater Treatment Plant through Amy Thompson that will take place this fall
      - Met with PACE, Sustainable CT and other towns re GHG Inventory tool for state
      - See above for Heat Smart update
    - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
      - *Need report*
    - **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell
      - Glass Recycling Pilot – Becky updated the group on the Glass Recycling Pilot, which is gaining momentum but still has a long way to go. There was discussion on how to better publicize (can we reach out to churches again) and also whether adding a second drop off site at Lake Mohegan could help north Fairfield residents’ levels of participation.
      - Lee Sawyer Grant and upcoming Food Waste Program – Becky updated the group that we did receive a DEEP Lee Sawyer Grant for a food waste drop off program at the transfer station. The Lee Sawyer funds are to be used for the set up only and ongoing hauler costs will be funded from Alcohol Mini Funds. Likely start date is mid-October. We will be offering 250 starter kits to the first 250 residents who sign

up. Starter kits will have a 5 gallon carry pail, a starter roll of BPI-compostable bags and a vented countertop pail. Residents are free to use their own compost pails, but food waste must be brought to the transfer station in BPI-certified compostable bags. **Becky needs help putting the starter kits together - please contact her!** Emma Kaye and Meghann McKale have volunteered.

- Recycling stickers for residential blue bins – Becky updated that many haulers still have not put the stickers on the residential bins – Misty said that John has been reaching out to haulers to confirm
- OOPS! Stickers/Tags – Misty updated the group that John Cottell is looking into an OOPS! program along with Oakridge where someone will do irregular checks of residents recycling bin contents and put an OOPS! sticker on any bins that are not in Compliance.
- [Mattress Recycling](#) – There will be a Mattress and Box spring drop off on October 22 8:30am – 12:30pm at Veterans Park. It was also discussed that many towns in Fairfield County have not signed up to have free mattress drop off trailers at their transfer stations. Stamford did have a trailer but canceled the program when PCG returned several truck loads due to bed bugs. 12 of the 14 HRRRA towns do have trailers and they have not reported any issues.
- 25% Discounted Composter Program Recap - Becky updated that the program this year was a success, but we are not getting the levels of participation as we have gotten in prior years. It was discussed that possibly the energy that goes into this program can be redirected to publicizing the area food waste pick up programs instead.
- Alcohol Minis Funds - John Cottell has indicated that in addition to the Food waste drop off hauling, all of these funds will be going to recycling and litter clean up programs.
- [Save the Sound International Coastal Clean-Up Day](#) – Becky mentioned that September 17<sup>th</sup> is International Coastal Clean-Up Day and Save the Sound is running a series of local clean ups the month of September. FBRA and SFTF are doing a clean-up on September 24 at 4 pm (scroll all the way down to see the dates & times)
- School initiatives – Meghann McKale updated the group on a Green Tips Program for the school newsletters. SFTF will be coordinating with this program to create and publicize tips. A pumpkin recycling program is also being planned and we will seek a Sustainable CT grant.
- Request for town plan to meet the State’s goal of 60% diversion from disposal by 2024 – Becky asked Rep McCarthy-Vahey how we could add more “teeth” to encourage towns to create plans to reduce waste. The suggestion was to work with our state reps to enact legislation on this and then support that legislation effort with a letter writing campaign.
- Upcoming seminars on recycling at local libraries and senior center - Becky updated that this fall we are planning to do recycling and waste reduction informational sessions at all the local libraries as well as the Senior Center.
- **Food Actions:** Outreach on sell by dates and buy by dates to reduce food waste - Becky is working on creating a list of tips on how to reduce food waste upfront

- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
  - Meeting canceled due to illness, need to reschedule
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - Becky working on workshops re: heat pumps, recycling in/out, and composting at Pequot, Woods and Bigelow
  - Composting pilot - Operation Hope to take 20 kits for their client
  - Greenfield Street project with Habitat for Humanity - Shawn has emailed Mark re: possibility for sustainable options (materials, solar, heat pumps, etc) and use of Sustainable CT grant.
  - Follow Fairfield Equity Coalition on instagram for great info including sustainability tips
  - If anyone has connections at their religious organization please let us know, we haven't been getting much in-roads making cold calls
  - Shawn noted a Catholic church in Bridgeport is going geothermal and will contact them
  - Three free tabling opportunities, volunteers needed:
    - Fairfield Public Library Food Truck Fair - Sun, 10/2, 11am-6pm
    - Chamber of Commerce Harvest Market - Sat, 10/15 10am-4pm
    - Fairfield Museum Halloween on the Green - Sun, 10/30 12pm-4pm
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
  - Newsletter: new September issue out
  - Social media: Oak Ridge and Recycling Ed.
  - Website
    - **Still need content from committee members to go live!**
    - Adding page for PTA Green Teams which will have a blog for weekly Green Tips + other info
- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - 10 EVSE at SIH - Knocked it out of the park this afternoon! - THANK YOU ALL!!! - 14 letters read at the Historic District Commission plus Mary Hogue spoke and Amanda Ingrassia attended
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
  - Next RTM meeting on 9/19 has a lot of interesting topics:
    - Report on approved capital projects
    - Purchase of 150 Villa Avenue to to serve as a detention area to help with flooding on Rooster River
    - Creation of Arts Commission
    - Have the Town Clerk prepare explanatory text for the Charter Revision Ballot Question
    - Ordinance prohibiting the use of artificial turf containing rubber infill

