



**Attendees:** Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Peter Kraus, Jim Marren, Shawn O’Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

**Liaisons:** Meghann McKale

**Guests:** Karen Secrist, Sreya Mothukuri, David Downie

**November 10, 2022**

**7-8:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

- **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were not voted on because we did not have a quorum.

- **Treasurer Report**

- Balance as of 11/10/2022 is **\$6,128.33**.
- Reimbursement of \$42.28 to Mary Hogue for poster board has not been posted as yet.
- Approval needed to reimburse Dustin Mandre \$300 for annual website subscription was not able to voted on so Bob will send an email out for approval.

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD
  - No chair so unclear who to communicate with
- **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
  -
- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
  - Presentations & Workshops
    - 10/18 6:30pm Fairfield Woods Library Amanda Ingrassia & Ted Luchsinger, Fairfield Pollinator Pathway Co-Directors presented “[Leave the Leaves](#)”
    - 11/1 7pm Sacred Heart Eco Club Presentation by Ted Luchsinger
    - 11/8 10:30am-noon Pollinator and Milkweed Seed Workshop for STEAM Teachers (Science, Technology, Art & Math) - THANK YOU [Oliver Nurseries](#) for composted potting soil donation!
  - Working with locally owned nurseries on promotions
    - 10% coupon
    - Plant native tree initiative

- Gift cards during off season/when they're closed (holiday season)
  - Promotion plans for Mother's Day, Earth Day, etc.
- **Flood and Erosion Control:** Becky Bunnell
  - No update
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
  - River Lab programs wrapped up for the fall season
  - Looking for volunteers to help with Rockland Park (Stratfield area) fall cleanup (date TBD)
  - End of year fundraising push - email/postcard campaign and Trivia Night - come join us (date TBD)
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
  - Pumpkin Composting is a GO for two weeks (11/14-20 and 11/28-12/4) at seven FPS: Burr, Dwight, Mill Hill, North Stratfield, Stratfield, Ludlowe and Warde; generously funded by the town of Fairfield (alcohol mini funds) - THANK YOU Becky.
    - Discussion about how to measure metrics for our goal to reduce our waste by 60%.
    - Discussion about ensuring the pumpkins will actually be composted.
  - We met with Dr. James Zavodjancik, FPS Chief Academic Officer, 10/17 to discuss incorporating sustainability into the curriculum and professional development opportunities for teachers. As a result we are pursuing establishing native plant gardens at all 11 elementary schools.
  - We met with Sherill Baldwin at CT DEEP who confirmed that Oak Ridge is required to accept our milk cartons, so we are reopening milk carton recycling as an option at any interested school.
  - Several schools collected candy wrappers for a recycling project through Rubicon.
- **By-Laws**
  - Both Phil Levieff and Scott Thompson will be stepping down
  - By-Laws document for folks to add their comments
- **Wrapping Up of 2022 & Looking forward to 2023:** Bob Wall
  - List of Accomplishments in 2022
    - Committee chairs please review the [2022 list](#) and determine if and how we did / did not meet 2022 Goals
  - List of Goals for 2023
    - Committee chairs review the 2022 list and determine 2023 Goals accordingly
  - Election of 2023 Officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
    - Without a quorum we were unable to vote on this but still have the December meeting
  - 2023 Meeting Schedule

- Some members have problems making the current date / time so more discussion is required
- **Climate Leaders Update:** Bob Wall, Mary Hogue
  - Two celebrations:
    - 11/1 during the luncheon at the CCM Annual Convention at Mohegan Sun Casino
    - 11/14 at [Sustainable CT's Awards Celebration](#) at the West Hartford Town Hall
- **HeatSmart Campaign:** Bob Wall, Becky Bunnell
  - Finally starting to gain momentum thanks to the Equity committee. Big focus on reaching underserved populations in town; we prepared a brief survey for people receiving assistance from social services with a \$25 gift card for Stop & Shop as an incentive. New England Smart Energy has been lined up as a HES provider and will pay \$25 to SFTF for each completed HES assessment that we refer. Workshops scheduled for Dec. 3 (New England Smart Energy on HES & energy efficiency upgrades) and Jan. 9 (Abode/Energize CT on heat pumps). Larry has drafted a testimonial on heat pumps for the website.
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
  - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
    - Heat Smart Campaign - see above
    - Greenhouse Gas Inventory - We have obtained most data for a preliminary tool provided by Great Plains Institute (GPI) but still need more accurate data on Vehicle Miles Traveled. Mary and Bob attended zoom meetings on choosing a unified state GHG tool and also met with Sustainable CT to provide feedback on our work with GPI.
    - Energy Audit of WWTF - Consultant Amy Thompson met with John Bodie/WPCA on Oct. 19 and is gathering more data to complete an energy audit of the wastewater treatment plant. This no cost service was provided through a federal grant and will earn us points for Sustainable CT.
    - Solar Study - No progress here but Bob spoke with Town Auditor Connie Saxl about our study. Need to tie everything together for both town and school systems and conduct analysis over the life cycle of those projects including future costs of electricity and reduction in Demand Charges.
    - Alternative Fuels for Town Facilities - RTM members Bill Gerber and John Kuhn are interested in options such as geothermal and heat pumps for town schools in the wake of plans to spend \$100 million on air conditioning. Need to schedule a follow up with them.
  - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
    - On 11/03 we had an electric school bus demo and technical assistant event at Ludlowe Middle School. Sal Morabito, Manager of Construction, Security and Safety Angelus Papageorge, Executive Director of Operations and new

Superintendent, Michael Testani all attended; Board of Education (BOE) chair, Christine Vitale, was out of town. Providing Angelus with RFP language to help move ESB adoption forward.

- Connected Ford Pro with Fairfield Police Chief Kalamaras to help lessen the time it will take to bring EVs to the police department. Right now, the wait for the Mustang Mach E is almost two years. But, if the department chooses the Ford Pro EVSE, it shortens the wait time because departments that use the Ford Pro EVSE equipment are prioritized.
- Regarding the purchase of EVs for the municipal fleet - wait times are still long.

■ **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell

➤ **Waste Actions:**

- a. Glass Recycling pilot – The program continues to be promoted by the SFTF and recently 500 copies of a joint glass and food waste flyer were delivered to the transfer station booth to be passed out to create awareness. We will confirm how many containers have been collected – it is believed to be somewhere between 5 and 7, each container represents roughly 4 – 5 tons.
- b. Food waste program – The program kicked off October 17<sup>th</sup> to a great start. All of the hauler bins were filled the first week. All of the free starter kits have been spoken for and 185 have been distributed to date. The rest are being distributed at several upcoming dates
- c. Pumpkin recycling - The Town Pumpkin recycling program has started. The SFTF is promoting this through a press release, Brenda’s newsletter, and social media. The school portion of the event will start on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. The intent is to have dumpsters at 7 schools.
- d. Recycling stickers for residential blue bins – These are getting out slowly and some of the haulers appear to not understand the need to put them out and cite cost and manpower issues getting them on bins.
- e. OOPS stickers – The town will be rolling out an “Oops” sticker program in which a sticker is put on non-conforming recycling bins and haulers will be directed NOT to pick up those bins. The discussion was that in order for this to be effective, residents will need to understand the program, so they know what is going on and haulers as well
- f. Mattress Recycling – Bob shared that roughly 70 mattresses were picked up in this event on 10/23. Have number of mattresses and weight for our records. DPW Assistant Director, John Cottell stopped by. It was considered an effective program even if not quite at the level of our first year.
- g. Request for town plan to meet the State’s goal of 60% diversion from disposal by 2024 – There was a discussion that the SFTF should start to

create a list of all the recent programs we have been running and the associated tons of waste diverted as a start to this effort.

- h. Upcoming seminars on recycling at local libraries and senior center - To date 4 Sessions have been scheduled on recycling at the three libraries and Senior center. SFTF has been asked to speak at an upcoming rotary event and also to an AP High school class.
  - i. School recycling initiatives - The green teams are doing a great job with their recycling tips.
- **Food Actions**
- a. A FAQ document on how to reduce food waste upfront by understanding sell by dates and buy by dates and tips to extend the life of food will be finished this month and put on the SFTF site and can be promoted on social media.
- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
- The Tucker Fund: a non-profit that has generously done [projects](#) around Fairfield in open spaces - THANK YOU to [The Tucker Fund!](#)
    - ★ 2018 Project: Hoydens Hill Native Pollinator Meadow due for seeding this spring (finally!) Took this look to ensure mugwort was removed and can be managed.
    - ★ 2019 Project: 10/17 10am Bird Viewing Platform (760 Old Post Road) Ribbon Cutting
    - ★ 2020 Project: Smith-Richardson Club House Pollinator Garden in back
    - ★ 2021 Project: Smith-Richardson Club House Pollinator Garden in front & CT Audubon Larsen Sanctuary Fragrance Loop Native Plants
    - ★ 2022 Project: Jennings Beach entryway start implementation with moving local power & utility lines underground, excavating and paving in 2022 and planting in 2023
    - ★ 2023 Project: TBD, Forestry / Pollinator Pathway submittal
  - Working on meeting with TPZ, Engineering, Flood & Erosion Control on bioswales inspired by Wired Article, "[If You Don't Already Live in a Sponge City, You Will Soon](#)"
    - ★ Larry Kaley was concerned that if water accumulates in median collectors if those collectors, when filled with water, would act as mosquito breeding grounds
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
- Heatsmart/Energy efficiency program
    - ★ Equity toolkit information gathering: survey info to be posted in December Human Services newsletter
    - ★ Upcoming presentations
      - Dec. 3rd at Pequot library: Focus on efficiency and presentation by Stephanie/HES.

- Plan for virtual presentation in January, weekday lunchtime, when we hopefully have full information on incentives/rebates offered through IRA.
- ★ Need to wait until January to run concerns about making Greenfield Street Affordable House project, which is being managed by Habitat for Humanity, to include energy efficient building standards and utilities
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
  - Social Media: promoting all of our recycling initiatives and programs, sharing and amplifying, in the process, FPS Green Teams tips, pumpkin composting was pushed out as was Sustainable CT award/recognition - was very well received! Just promoted news letter too and sustainable Fairfield students shared video of Oak Ridge trip on America Recycles Day which we also shared.
  - Newsletter: November / December Newsletter going out next week
  - Website: holiday vegan food options were updated (links) and FPS Green Team section was created.
- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - SFTF signed onto a letter
  - With Election Day just this week we hope to get ramped up for 2023 CT Legislative Session
- **Key Upcoming Dates**
  - 11/14 3-6pm [Sustainable CT Awards Celebration](#), West Hartford Town Hall, 50 S. Main Street, West Hartford
  - 11/16 10am-11am Recycling Presentation and some HES and energy efficiency info, Bigelow Senior Center, 100 Mona Terrace
  - 11/21 noon-1:30pm SFTF overview and recycling to Rotary Club, Irish Club
  - 12/1 7pm-8pm Recycling Presentation, Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Avenue, Southport
  - 12/3 10am-11am HES & Energy Efficiency Upgrades by New England Smart Energy, Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Ave, Southport
  - 12/12; 6pm-7pm Recycling Presentation, Main Library, 1080 Old Post Road
  - 1/9 6:30pm 7:30pm Heat Pump Presentation by Abode/Energize CT, Fairfield Woods Branch Library, 1147 Fairfield Woods Road
  - Larry suggests presentation at the Fairfield Y, PTA's and BOE
- **Old Business**
  - Committee Chairs, please remember to update your Sustainability Modules!
- **New Business**