



Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Becky, Bunnell, Daphne Dixon, Mary Hogue, Rabab Hussain, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Bill Leavy, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O'Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

Liaisons: none

Guests: Connor Cowan

December 8, 2022

7-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Minutes**

Rabab Hussain made a motion, Larry Kaley seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld

- Balance as of 12/2/2022 is **\$5,836.05**.
- Includes reimbursement of \$300 to Dustin Mandre for SFTF website annual subscription; this has been posted to the SFTF account, and actual payment is apparently en route.

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD
 - Mostly new members so last meeting was introductions and playing catch up
- **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
 - No report this month - See Food & Waste Committee report
- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
 - A few extra trees were planted after the close of the Fall 2022 program and it is now complete
 - Met with Parks & Rec and Oliver Nurseries to discuss pocket park at 1720 Post Road (between Starbucks and Hands On Pottery mall) where Oliver Nursery has donated design time and will provide discounted plantings; work to commence spring 2023
 - Fairfield Pollinator Pathway, CT Audubon Society, Aspetuck Land Trust and Pollinator Pathway Northeast working on Dark Skies programming to commence with spring 2023 spring birdsong migration and repeat again during the fall migration. Rings End has signed on as a corporate sponsor. This work has just started so stay tuned!
 - Fairfield Pollinator Co-Directors, Amanda Ingrassia and Ted Luchsinger, along with chair, Mary Hogue provided 1.5hr of professional development on the pollinator pathway with a hands-on workshop in sewing milkweed seeds on Election Day

- FFC working on their own 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals lists to share
- **Flood and Erosion Control:** Becky Bunnell
 - Work with Ash Creek Conservancy on the Ash Creek Master Plan: habitat restoration and resiliency; mitigating erosion of Sand Spit and Great Marsh Island; [12/7 Zoom presentation](#) and there will be a [full Zoom presentation on 12/14](#), no registration required
 - Penfield Pavilion Zoom presentation 12/13 7pm + in-person at Old Town Hall
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
 - Monthly Advocacy Coffees - MRWC meeting for informal discussion on a monthly basis with various organizations like Conservation, Trout Unlimited, Ash Creek Conservation Association, etc.
 - Planning trivia nights - possibly in Jan/Feb and again in March/April. Fun times!
 - Mary Hogue noted she just came from the MRWC Holiday Party held at Little Pub - very fun to meet and greet old and new friends
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
 - Green Team Potluck Holiday Party at Eco Evolution in Norwalk on Thursday, December 15 7-9pm
 - Milk carton recycling is back (almost) - Angelus is looking for a hauler to get milk cartons transported to Kelly Green Products, schools need to get started on how they will collect milk cartons
 - Compost launches in earnest at Holland Hill and Riverfield with outdoor bins in place and Curbside Compost as hauler
 - Grades 1 and 2 will have a pollinator curriculum in spring 2023 - donations of clear gallon jugs (water or milk) are needed for hands-on activity of planting seeds
 - Parents in the cafeteria to help with sustainability efforts - this is at the discretion of each building principal, there is not a district policy
 - Pumpkin composting was a success! Collected 5.75 tons of pumpkins from seven schools! (Elementary Schools: Stratfield 1.63T, Mill Hill 1.62, North Stratfield .74T, Burr .68T, Dwight .46T and High Schools: Fairfield Warde .74T and Fairfield Ludlowe .38T)
- **By-Laws:** Bob Wall

Tabled for discussion because the document was not posted in an area the Committee could access.
- **Wrapping Up of 2022 & Looking forward to 2023:** Bob Wall
 - [List of Accomplishments in 2022](#) & [List of Goals for 2023](#) (to be covered in Committee Reports)
 - List of Accomplishments due from all Committee chairs by 12/15 end of day
 - Election of 2023 Officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
 - Chair: Bob Wall - motion Mary Hogue, second Larry Kaley
 - Treasurer: Ron Blumenfeld - motion Mary Hogue, second Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Secretary: Mary Hogue - motion Rabab Hussein, second Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Slate was put up as a single vote and was unanimous
 - 2023 Meeting Schedule

- Stay with 2nd Thursday of the month but start at 7:15pm hoping to continue ending by 8:30pm
- **Earth Day 2023:** Larry Kaley, Mary Hogue
 - 4/29/2023 at Fairfield YMCA Healthy Kids Day event (again!)
 - Include Earth Day EV event (again!)
 - Include Fairfield Cub Scout Bike Rodeo (was the day after last year)
- **HeatSmart Campaign:** Bob Wall, Becky Bunnell
 - Presentations have started and more to come - check out Key Dates below
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall

2022 Accomplishments:

 - Brought Energy Benchmarking up to date, including addition of missing solar data; facilitated free Energy Audit of Wastewater Treatment Plant; scheduled review session with consultant and school facilities director (12/12/22)
 - Supported Use of Renewable Energy, monitor performance of municipal systems & work with Town to end moratorium on solar; established that approximately 15% of town's electricity use comes from solar
 - Conducted Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory - collected 2015-2021 data relating to electricity, natural gas, transportation, and solid waste; still require certain data regarding vehicle miles traveled to complete the exercise

2023 Goals

 - Continue Energy Benchmarking & seek opportunities for improvements
 - Support renewable energy projects at municipal facilities including battery storage
 - Complete GHG Inventory
 - Continue Heat Smart program in collaboration with others
 - Conduct Residential solar plus battery storage campaign
 - Support Community Choice Aggregation at state and local level
 - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
 - 12/14 11am-2pm CT Southwestern Area Clean Cities Coalition EV Awards & Reception at Fodor Farmhouse, 328 Flax Hill Road, Norwalk - Daphne noted that (a) Fairfield will be receiving an award for having the most chargers in Fairfield County and (b) Fodor Farmhouse just installed an EV charger today! See [AFCC Charger Location website](#) for more info.
 - Larry Kaley asked about EV charger for Fairfield YMCA, Daphne noted she has worked with them and is waiting for a reply and will reach out again.
 - Fairfield Police will be working with Ford Pro, the Ford infrastruc division, to obtain two F-150 / Lightning trucks in 2023. Due to work with Ford Pro these are expedited orders so trucks should arrive on/around March 2023
 - Currently Ford Mach-e Mustangs are not purpose built but should be by 2024 when the Fairfield Police hopes to place their annual 10 car replacement order
 - EV Chargers at Town Hall scheduled to be installed early spring 2023, vendor is Juice Bar. Town still having problems placing an order for their fleet.

- EV School Bus demo last month by Datco was a complete success with new Fairfield Public Schools Superintendent Michael Testani, Executive Director of Operations Angelus Papageorge and Director of Construction & Energy Management, Sal Morabito in attendance.
- Daphne Dixon noted that Datco has been the main bus operator in CT to successfully bring EV buses to school districts in Fairfield. Updated contract needs to include wording of to encourage business successful at bringing EV buses to the district.

2022 Accomplishments



2023 Goals



- **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell

2022 Accomplishments

➤ Clean the Stream

- Glass Recycling - Accomplished a pilot glass recycling drop-off program. Residents bring their glass to the Transfer Station where it is taken to Pozzotive in Beacon Falls, CT that crushes it and uses it in a high-end cement additive, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of the cement. By removing glass from the recycling stream, this can potentially make the paper and cardboard more saleable but all glass must be out of the recycling stream.
- Developed a sticker for all residential blue bins to show what can and cannot go in the bins.
- Recycling tips - Conducted 4 presentations at local libraries and Senior Center to share recycling tips.
- Developed signage sharing recycling tips and posted it at most of the town's 17 schools as well as Farmers Markets (Sherman Green and Greenfield Hill) and three town events (10/2 11am-6pm, Fairfield Public Library Food Truck Fair, 10/15 10am-4pm Chamber Harvest Festival and 10/30 12-4pm Museum Halloween on the Green).

➤ Food Waste Prevention / Composting

- Launched a food waste drop-off pilot in October 2022. Using a grant, provided 250 free starter kits – 20 earmarked for Operation Hope, a local non-profit that works to end hunger, as well as sell kits after free kits are depleted.
- Published Buy by/Sell information on website to help prevent unnecessary food waste.
- Composting Seminars and 25% discounted Composter program
- Pumpkin recycling - Worked with School Green Teams to do Pumpkin Composting at seven schools (thank you Ali Vanderpool & Ann Lee Lowinger for starting in 2021!). Expenses of signage and containers cost \$1,025 and a total of 5.75 tons of pumpkins were collected: Elementary Schools: Stratfield 1.63T,

Mill Hill 1.62, North Stratfield .74T, Burr .68T, Dwight .46T and High Schools:
Fairfield Warde .74T and Fairfield Ludlowe .38T

- **Mattress Recycling** - Saturday, April 23, 2022 where 67 units were collected, and Saturday, October 22, 2022 where 63 units were collected at Veterans Park for a total of 130 units

2023 Goals

- Continue to Build Food waste recycling and composting efforts
- Continue to build Glass Recycling
- Support for OPPS sticker program
- Continue Mattress recycling initiative
- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
 - See Fairfield Forestry Committee for update

2022 Accomplishments

- See [Fairfield Forestry Committee 2022 Accomplishments](#)

2023 Goals

- See [Fairfield Forestry Committee 2023 Goals](#)
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Update: In order to satisfy Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit Step 1 for HeatSmart, surveys distributed at Bigelow Center and on our website.

2022 Accomplishments

- Equity toolkit implemented for the Heat Smart/energy efficiency campaign
- Free composting kit program was very successful. All free kits were requested and some reduced priced kits sold. There was a lot of enthusiasm and community building as a result of the program and it gave us the opportunity to connect with a wide audience. Kits were also delivered to Operation Hope for distribution to their clients.
- Library workshops and tabling efforts led to new connections, subscriptions to the newsletter, and hopefully a larger audience.
- SFTF participated in the writing of the draft of the Racial Equity and Justice Task Force Blueprint for Fairfield, a "framework detailing several ways to improve Fairfield's commitment to the fair and equitable treatment of town residents, employees and visitors and reflects best practices in both the public and private sectors." (Racial Equity and Justice Task Force Blueprint for the Town of Fairfield, CT, draft 1/6/2022).

2023 Goals

- Equity to be integrated into all SFTF activities and projects, ideally by using Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit.
- Diversified SFTF membership.
- Deeper dialogue and partnerships with community organizations
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
 - Social media: Pumpkin composting and HeatSmart promoted. Graphics were worked on and posted for the food waste FAQs

- Newsletter: November/December newsletter was sent out and a separate flash newsletter went out promoting HeatSmart info sessions.
- Outreach: first HeatSmart info session at Pequot library was held! Second one is coming up and will go into heavy promotion on social media next.
- Website: HeatSmart press release was uploaded and link to HeatSmart Fairfield website was added. Food waste FAQs were also uploaded

2022 Accomplishments

- Updated SFTF Town website[MH1]
- Updated SustainableFairfield.org[MH2]
- Creating and Distributing Bi-monthly Newsletter; first issue in March 2022; the first five newsletter issues have featured three dozen news items on SFTF events, initiatives, and helpful sustainability information and tips for residents
- 200 subscribers (and growing) in Mailchimp for our newsletter
- Maintaining regular stream of timely news release re: SFTF events/accomplishments, for inclusion in First Selectwoman’s biweekly newsletter and posting on appropriate Town sites; nearly one dozen releases generated in 2022[MH3]
- Added 500 more followers on social media (mainly instagram which has been performing very well) to bring outreach to 1500 followers.
- Work with CT Rides to amplify their messaging -
 - 1) specifically in support of their Drive Less CT Challenge which they conducted throughout the month of May 2022 (2 post on our feed on [instagram](#) and [facebook](#)):
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdEOQL9OSmT/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D> and
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdZU2bElCyi/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
 - 2) Promoting the podcast “along the lines”:
<https://www.facebook.com/sustainablefairfield/photos/934154353960652>
 - 3) Free Bus service:
<https://www.facebook.com/sustainablefairfield/photos/950713662304721>
- Working with FPS Green Teams to amplify their weekly sustainable tips and helping them gain followers.
- Amplifying and supporting Sustainable Fairfield Students with their projects.
- Recycling and food waste initiatives were heavily promoted and press releases and graphics on FAQs pertaining to both were put in the newsletter, posted on the website, and put into heavy rotation on social media channels.
- HeatSmart press release, newsletter, info sessions, blog post, and social media promotion are underway as we wrap up the year.

[MH1]I don’t know if it belongs here or not, but Jim Marren has output an impressive number of press releases that (a) go into the First Selectwoman’s bi-weekly newsletter with a reach of ??? + they (should) be posted in the SFTF Newsfeed

[MH2] There was substantial work done here, can you please enumerate. Also, when did we purchase the upgraded version of WordPress, was that in 2022? Or 2021?

[MH3] When was the first newsletter? I was going to link to it but don't see archives of our newsletter on SustainableFairfield.org - can we create that?

2023 Goals



- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan

2022 Accomplishments

- See [2022 Votes on Letters](#) and individual letters in [2022 Advocacy Letters](#) folder

2023 Goals

- Ad hoc based on need

● Key Upcoming Dates

- 12/12/2022, 6pm, Fairfield Main Library Memorial Room, "[Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – a new range of recycling options you might not have known about](#)" presentation
- 1/9/2023, 6:30pm, Pequot Library, HeatSmart Presentation (from Abode)

● Old Business

- All Committee chairs need to have their [2022 Accomplishments](#) and [2023 Goals](#) input by 12/15 end of day
- Annual end of year SFTF pic for posting on social media taken - Thank you Rabab!

● New Business

- Party to celebration Sustainable CT Silver Re-Certification in 2021 and Climate Leader status in 2023 to be done by committee headed by Rabab Hussain
- Letter to BOE supporting inclusion of Eid in school calendar
 - After much discussion it was determined the proposed letter needs to be updated with proper pronouns (it was written in the first person from an individual vs. plural for the group) and a preamble to provide background why SFTF feels this topic is under our purview - Jim Marren to take lead with Shawn O'Sullivan assisting
 - Letter is due to BOE by 12/12 so SFTF deadline for vote is 12/11