



January 12, 2023
7:15-8:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Mary Hogue, Rabab Hussain, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Bill Leavy, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Doug Price, Bob Wall

Liaisons: Meghann McKale

Guests: Reggie Saint Fortcolin, Connor Cowan, Ted Luchsinger, Sreya Mothukuri

- **Meeting Minutes**

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

- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld

- Balance as of 12/2/2022 is **\$6,253.33**.

- **Sustainable CT Documenting**

- We are aiming for the new Gold certification level which requires a minimum of 4 Equity Toolkits and 750 points
 - ALL actions that could possibly be submitted for Sustainable CT should be **DOCUMENTED AS THEY ARE BEING PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED!** This will ensure that we capture all the wonderful work being done on sustainability and will mean that submission in 2024 will be far less onerous
 - Working with Annika Shiffer-Delegard, Sustainable CT fellow and grad student, to create checklists for each Sustainable CT action. Starting with actions we have completed in 2022 and are working on currently
 - ALL actions should attempt to include equity as a component. In order to do this, the **FIRST STEPS NEED TO INCLUDE REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES** that we are attempting to serve. In order to do that the people in this community need to be included in the beginning phases of this action and be offered a seat on the committee running this action

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD
 - No report
 - **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
 - No report

- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
 - Working on 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals
 - Determined proposed locations and species for trees to be planted for Arbor Day (4/28) at all 18 campus locations which will be shared with Angelus Papageorge, and Police Department for approval
 - Teacher resources created to support Arbor Day created to be shared with curriculum staff and elementary principals
 - Bid request for Spring 2023 Tree Planting Program sent to vendors - tree list focus on native tree species
 - Holding “Milk Jug Greenhouse” workshops at Fairfield Woods Library 2/4 2-4pm and Pequot Library 2/11 noon -2pm
 - Working with STEAM teachers to finalize Pollinator Curriculum for spring
 - Working with elementary level Green Teams to ensure native plant gardens are all elementary schools by spring
 - Year-round programming on Lights Out initiative with CT Audubon Society, Aspetuck Land Trust and Lights Out! CT
 - Working to help pass state legislation on lights out at night in all state-owned buildings
- **Flood and Erosion Control:** Becky Bunnell
 - Penfield Pavillion again up for discussion
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
 - Volunteer job descriptions - to come!
 - Trivia Nights - dates to come!
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
 - Collecting clear gallon milk jugs for 1st graders and Library native seed sowing workshops
 - Composting at Riverfield and Holland Hill Elementary Schools started; volunteers monitoring at Riverfield and going well, help need to to curb contamination at Holland Hill
 - Working to do milk carton recycling to reduce volume of solid waste to reduce cost / pick up which could offset in cost of compost pickups
- **[By-Laws Vote:](#)** Bob Wall
 - Defer until next meeting, not everyone was familiar enough to take a vote
- **Wrapping Up of 2022 & Looking forward to 2023:** Bob Wall
 - [List of Accomplishments in 2022](#) & [List of Goals for 2023](#) (please be sure all your information is in these documents)
 - 2023 Meeting Schedule
 - Updates to Sustainability Plan
 - Look at 2021 Sustainable CT submission for achievements, check links in the Resources section to ensure they are still good and add new ones
- **Earth Day:** Larry Kaley, Mary Hogue

- Sat, 4/29, 10am-1pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road
- Registered to be on National Drive Electric Earth Day website
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
 - The second HeatSmart workshop was held at Fairfield Woods Library on 1/9. Matt Corona of Energize CT led the discussion which focused on heat pumps. 12 residents attended (7 others canceled due to illness.)
 - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
 - No Idling campaign of concern from several parents
 - Transportation effect on Fairfield Public Schools redistricting plans
 - **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell
 - No report
 - **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
 - See Forestry report
 - **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Discussed problem of engagement as only 7 people responded to Heat Smart survey so far, suggestion to expand survey to reduced lunch families through school
 - Sustainable CT equity requirements - can be any action in FF, not just SFTF
 - Possible Toolkits:
 - Heat Smart
 - Fairfield Cares school survey and programming - talk to Reini
 - EID as holiday
 - FEC book club
 - One Book One Town - if town allows input from public? - Shawn to connect with new librarian on Sustainable CT and generally working together with us
 - Sacred Heart Social Justice Week - Emma to connect with Ted and student
 - Other school projects - Mary to connect with Digna to set up meeting
 - Op Hope - Shawn to connect with Carla
 - **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
 - Jan-Feb newsletter being worked on, please send info to Jim Marren
 - **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Sent [letter](#) to DEEP regarding their Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) centered around methane
- **Key Upcoming Dates**
 - 1/25, 5:30-7pm, Fairfield Museum & History Center, [SFTF Celebration!](#)
 - 40 confirmed coming, 10 confirmed not coming, 10 maybe, 237 not replied
 - 2/4, 2-4pm, Fairfield Woods Library, [Milk Jug Greenhouse Workshop](#)
 - 2/11, Noon, Pequot Library, Milk Jug Greenhouse Workshop
 - 4/29, 10am-3pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road, Fairfield Earth Day Celebration, [National Healthy Kids Day](#), [National Drive Electric Earth Day](#)
- **Old Business**

- All Committee chairs need to input their [2022 Accomplishments](#) and [2023 Goals](#) - please make sure yours are all in there!
- Party to celebration Sustainable CT Silver Re-Certification in 2021 and Climate Leader status in 2023 - **all SFTF and Liaisons should RSVP**
- Inclusion of Eid in 2023-2024 school calendar!
- **New Business**
 - Park & Rec holding webex on their [Master Plan](#) as we hold our meeting! (Oh well!!)