



February 9, 2023

7:15-8:21pm

Meeting Agenda

Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Mary Hogue, Rabab Hussain, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Peter Kraus, Bill Leavy, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Shawn O’Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

Liaisons: Ted Luchsinger

Guests: Amanda Ingrassia, Jill Amari, Anya Mezak, Sreya Mothukuri

- **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were not distributed and will be voted on next month.

- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld

- Balance as of 2/6/2023 is **\$6,253.33**. No pending expenses (or revenue!)

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD

- During 2/3 CT Legislature Transportation Committee meeting DOT Commissioner noted "[2022 among deadliest for CT drivers and pedestrians in decades, data shows](#)"
- Fairfield State Rep Cristin McCarthy Vahey named Smart Growth America State Legislator Champion - congrats Cristin! 🎉
 - The State Legislator Champions Institute is a technical assistance and peer learning program designed to help state legislative officials develop effective transportation policies that support public health, climate, and equity goals

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

- No report

- **Fairfield Forestry Committee (FFC):** Mary Hogue

- [Ryan Romeo named Patch Star Local Student](#) thanks to nomination from FFC members Mary Hogue, Amanda Ingrassia and Karin Layton
- Work on pocket park at 1720 Post Road progressing, work should be completed this spring
- Working with the Fairfield Public Schools (FPS), Fairfield PTA Council (PTAC) VP of Sustainability and school Green Teams to plant a tree at every school in honor of Arbor Day 2023

- Curricular Connections, Enrichments & Extensions for Arbor Day created by FFC Education Committee: Amanda Ingrassia and Karin Layton for FPS use
- Met with [Bright Beginnings Preschool](#) to assist with installing pollinator friendly native plants along with a veggie garden. They have schools in Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk and Stamford and have connected them in the other cities and towns with local Pollinator Pathway town organizers.
- Friends of Lake Mohegan held a workday focused on removal of bittersweet at Lake Mohegan 1/28 11am-1pm
- Held native seed sowing workshop at Fairfield Woods Library 2/4/2023
- Holding native seed sowing workshop at Pequot Library this Saturday, 2/11/2023
- Working with CT Audubon (CAS), Aspetuck Land Trust (ALT), Northeast Pollinator Pathway (NEPP), Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University (SHU) CT Lights Out to raise awareness and hold events on light pollution and its effect on the natural environment - Please sign on to the [Lights Out pledge](#) and share with others!
- Need support for [HB05276: AN ACT CONCERNING THE NIGHT TIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS](#). So it can be on a Environment Committee Public Hearing agenda - please write to the [Environment Committee](#) and stress to our state delegation
- Combined Friends of Lake Mohegan and Fairfield Pollinator Pathway email lists in mailchimp + new names from seed sowing workshop so that we now have over 300 contacts
- 3/1 Ted presenting to Fairfield U Environmental Science faculty
- Door-to-door canvassing to share "Tree Rights" door hanger with Fairfield citizens continues in Greenfield Hill where UI tree trimming and removal is scheduled
- Working an updated Tree Planting Program door hanger
- **Flood and Erosion Control Board:** Becky Bunnell
 - Working with Town and FEMA to come to a good resolution on Penfield pavilion challenges
 - All ARPA projects on track
 - Working to explore solutions for flooding in underpass
- **Conservation / Inland Wetland Commissions:** Ted Luchsinger
 - Source for goats to eat invasive plants identified
 - Regulations and fee updates in progress
 - 980 High Street decision soon
 - Looking to create Trail Steward or Ranger program
 - Mapping update using GIS under review
 - Mode to solicit donations to support Open Spaces
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
 - Held Conservation Coffee on 2/7/2023, will continue to do these on a bi-monthly basis, please contact [Jon Dilley](#), MRWC President, if interested in participating
 - MRWC Trivia Night - fundraiser! 2/22(7-9pm) at Boca in Fairfield. \$20/person and a great time! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044daeeaa23a3fe3-trivia>
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
 - Milk Carton Recycling

- Hoping to work something out with [EyeRecycle](#) as hauler to [Kelly Green Products](#) starting 9/2023 (next fall) - Kelly Green is still working out renovations and permitting after a fire
- Mill Hill & Dwight are sending milk cartons in single stream recycling currently / soon; more may follow
- STEAM project: rollout of new pollinator curriculum for grades 1 & 2 and native plant gardens in all elementary schools
- Potential Compost Expansion in 2023-2024 School Year (schools where principals have agreed to sign on along with current school year participants)
 - Burr (asking principal next week but likely)
 - Dwight
 - Mill Hill
 - North Stratfield
 - Warde (need to ask principal but could be likely because FLHS starting this year and there is interest by staff and students)
 - Holland Hill (currently in program)
 - Riverfield (currently in program)
 - FLHS (student Eco Club to compost on site in tumblers, hasn't started yet)
- **1/25/2023 Sustainability Celebration:** Rabab Hussain
 - 90+ attendees - lots of fun, great connections and new friends were made!
 - Thank you to everyone on SFTF for helping to pull this together so quickly and seamlessly
- **[By-Laws](#) Vote:** Bob Wall
 - Larry Kaley made a motion to accept the by-laws as presented, Ron Blumenfeld seconded, no discussion, unanimously approved.
- **Sustainability Plan:** Bob Wall
 - Updates to Sustainability Plan
(see [Module Leaders doc](#) for what is still needing to be updated and lead for SFTF)
 - Ron Blumenfeld noted that when reviewing / rewriting the modules try to ensure Goals are measurable, when possible
 - Bob Wall noted the Resource links should be double-checked to ensure they are still working and correct and to try to include new ones as well
- **Earth Day:** Larry Kaley, Mary Hogue
 - Sat, 4/29, 10am-1pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road
 - Larry Kaley to make a volunteer sign-up list to publish on Google docs
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
 - Have not met yet in Feb but added a new member, Vandan Divatia, who attended Jan 25 event. Also promoted webinar on Is Your Home Wasting Energy & Money on Feb. 2
 - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon

- Police Fleet - Chief Kalanaras is interested in piloting two Ford F150s. I have set up meetings with him and Ford Pro. After those meetings, Ford Pro has given Chief Kalanaras a quote for the two charging stations. When Ford Pro Chargers are purchased, it shortens the delivery time for the vehicles. The Chief said in the meeting that he needs to get approval for the pilot
- Municipal Fleet - According to the EVSE supplier, JuiceBar, the infrastructure should be complete by Spring. UI needs to do some work that will require electricity to be off in Town Hall. That work is being scheduled for a week-end
- Gerald Foley contacted me in his last days with the Town for help getting the vehicles. They had put out several bids - but not getting responses. I connected Gerald and others with Karl Chevrolet, who is able to get the vehicles. Karl Chevrolet provided pricing. Before purchasing, the town wants to test drive the vehicle and make sure they order any extras needed. Karl Chevrolet agreed to bring out a vehicle. This was tentatively scheduled for this week - but think it has been postponed to next week. Karl Chevrolet said he could have the vehicles delivered by Spring.
- Electric School Bus.....Stay tuned!
- EV Zoning Regulations - pending response.
- **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell
 - Recycling and Waste Actions:
 - Glass Recycling pilot. – No updated data on volumes yet. Request into the town
 - Food waste program - Exploring possible secondary locations; Congress fire station and CT Audubon. Would need to bear proof and lock containers. Cost is \$325/month for up to 4 bins at each secondary location. Dan is interested in setting up a Stratfield village site. What is involved regarding permitting? Discussion about a Big Belly test at one of these locations. Possibility of a sustainable CT grant, that could be bundled with other recycling initiatives. Discussion about looking into costs of Ridgefield's Aerobic static pile for Haydu farm possible location and possibly bringing Andrew from Park City composting in Bridgeport to support Fairfield efforts.
 - OOPS stickers - Still waiting for a start date from DPW on this.
 - Confirmed Mattress Recycling events for May 6 and October 14 at Veterans Park, 909 Reef Road from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Bob has reached out to Connor and James as to whether scout troops might be interested in helping residents get mattresses to the site. Meghan will forward Bob the contact details of Wendy Carroll, the Girl scout troop leader.
 - Seminars on recycling and composting - We will explore 2 composting and Food waste recycling seminars this coming spring; ideally one at each of the town libraries.
 - School recycling initiatives / Green team - At this point 2 schools are doing Composting; Riverside which is going well and Holland Hill which is still getting up to speed. There will be funds to add 1 – 2 schools next year. Fairfield Ludlowe High school is starting up a compost bin program. The big win would be to find a way to collect all of the school trays – which are all BPI compostable and thus recyclable but they need to be brought up to Quantum Biopower in Southington

which is expensive. But trays are up to 80% of the lunch waste. Dwight has started a milk carton recycling program and the end goal is to get all the schools to collect these and haul up to Kelly Green products in Danbury which makes them into a kind of drywall. At this point there are no funds for hauling but the schools are still working to get kids to collect and recycle. Finally A few schools are starting a project of Blue bins in classrooms to separate out paper.

- Discount composter program - this would have to be funded from the Sustainable CT grant. The logistics are harder now that Amazon will not let you order in bulk.
- Lee Sawyer grant updates - We are looking into an option to do another 50 bins free around earth day. John is confirming costs to update the transfer station site.
- Fix it shop or take it or leave it drop off - No discussion – we need to find someone who can take this exploration on.
- Food Actions:
 - Farmers market and sustainable food options outreach – will start to pull together the updated list of CSAs and farmers markets.
- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
 - (see Fairfield Forestry Committee)
 - Attended quarterly 1/26 Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee meeting
 - Fairfield Conservation Director, Tim Bishop, having problems connecting with property owners and/or working out arrangements for them to turn over property that are in tax arrears abutting Bulkley Pond but hoping to have this completed by next meeting
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - No meeting this month
 - Shawn O’Sullivan did get an email back from Mark Barnhart re: Greenfield Street affordable housing project who said they have a design. Shawn will re-send her prior email explaining SFTF interest to incorporate green building standards, including energy efficiency into the building design.
 - Bob Wall noted he has been sharing reading material on Equity and Energy, EV’s and that the CT Energy Network will be hosting a presentation on Equity and Energy in the near future and will distribute the information when it becomes available.
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
 - Jim Marren starting to work on March/April SFTF newsletter so please send him info
 - Dustin Mandre noted we currently have 192 contacts on our email list
 - Rabab Hussain noted we now have 1,500 followers (and counting) on our Instagram account, @SustainableFairfield
- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - Shawn O’Sullivan writing a letter for SFTF to vote on re:
 - Shawn O’Sullivan wrote a letter re: [HB5974, “AN ACT CONCERNING FARE-FREE PUBLIC BUS TRANSPORTATION.”](#) but did not call for a vote so will review and send out for a vote.
 - 2023 CTLCV Annual Environmental Summit and huge success with approximately 500 people in attendance, split evenly between in-person at the CT Science Center

in Hartford and online. Governor Ned Lamont, DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes and many legislators were in attendance along with hundreds of advocates. You can view the breakout sessions along with briefing papers written by subject experts on the [CTLCV Summit webpage](#).

- To keep abreast of what is happening at the CT State Legislature, you can [sign up for CTLCV alerts](#). They can help you know when your support is needed to support or oppose bills on specific bills, what to say and how to submit testimony, which is a new online form this year.
- Committee meetings are being held in hybrid mode so you can attend (and testify) in person or via Zoom as well as view past meetings online.

■ Key Upcoming Dates

- 2/11, Noon, Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Avenue, Southport [Milk Jug Greenhouse Workshop](#)
- 2/13, 4pm, Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road [Why Is Your Electric Bill So High?: Panel with Bob Wall, SFTF Chair; PURA Chair, Marissa Gillett; Fairfield State Senator, Tony Hwang; Fairfield State Representatives Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Jennifer Leeper and Sarah Keitt](#)
- 3/2, 7-8 pm, Can Heat Pumps Work in Your Home? [Click here to log in via Zoom](#).
- 3/7, 6-8pm Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Avenue, Southport [Night-Sky Neighbors](#) (working title)
- 3/26, 4-6pm, Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC), 70 Sanford Street, Fairfield Osprey Movie screening + panel
- 4/29, 10am-1pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road, Fairfield Earth Day Celebration, [National Healthy Kids Day](#), [National Drive Electric Earth Day](#)

● Old Business

● New Business

- Ted Luchsinger suggested having a program to endorse restaurants moving in a more sustainable direction and will contact Becky Bunnell, chair of SFTF Food & Waste Committee to discuss further