



**March 9, 2023**  
**7:15-8:21pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Liaisons:** Meghann McKale

**Guests:** Vandan Divatia

- **Meeting Minutes**

- Larry Kaley made a motion, Daphne Dixon seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve 1/12/2023 and 2/9/2023 Minutes as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld

- Balance as of 3/9/2023 is **\$6,253.33**. No pending expenses (or revenue!)

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD
  - No report
- **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
  - No report
- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
  - Working on documenting projects completed in 2022 for Sustainable Fairfield as well as testing [Google Form](#) pilot
  - Arbor Day 2023
    - Plant a tree at each of 18 Fairfield Public School (FPS) campuses - waiting on final approval from FPS & Fairfield Police
    - Karin Layton and Amanda Ingrassia have created an [Arbor Day resource list](#) for schools to augment the planting and celebration of Arbor Day
      - Letter and resources sent to Dr Zavodjancik, FPS Chief Academic Officer, to share with staff
  - Tree Walks with Tree Warden and FFC members have been really helpful to the Committee, will continue to monitor same route after UI cutting / trimming
  - Plans to do Seasonal Tree Walks (spring, summer, fall, winter) again, hoping to do this at Oaklawn Cemetery and Arboretum: same route for all four seasons starting in

- the spring when it's easiest to recognize trees due to leaves and by winter able to recognize trees by bark, tree structure, buds, etc.
  - Save Our Mature Trees
    - Continue canvassing door-to-door on same route as UI Tree Removal route with "Tree Rights" door hanger
    - Update Tree Planting Program door hanger
  - Working to (finally!) complete update to [Fairfield Community Forest Management Plan](#)
  - Working on grant funding for education and outreach material (see above)
- **Flood and Erosion Control Board:** Becky Bunnell
  - Working with Town to explore resilience options for neighborhood behind Penfield
  - Several ARPA projects ongoing
  - CIRCA doing a study about flooding in underpasses
- **Conservation / Inland Wetland Commissions:** Ted Luchsinger
  - High Street voted to deny
  - Billboard Vinyl proposal on 3/15
  - Blue Bird and Bat Houses Hoydens Hill installed last month, pix on [@Fairfield\\_pollinator\\_pathway\\_fairfield](#) on Instagram
  - [Lake Mohegan Invasive Calendar](#)
  - Updating all trails in Open Space on Avenza
  - Working on improved signage at Open Spaces
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
  - Please help us spread the word:
    - To come: job description for Ass't Gear Manager open position
    - To come: April Trivia night (TBD)
    - To come: River Lab "Walk and Talk" sessions
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
  - We are working with the Food & Waste Committee and Curbside Compost to expand the cafeteria compost program for 2023-2024; we are now accepting the lunch trays in compost which will make for a huge reduction in trash.
  - FLHS starting work on their compost tumblers
  - More schools are starting milk carton recycling; we are still working to resolve the hauling issue.
  - Our next recycling project will be paper in the classrooms; fun upcycling project: using the boxes the paper comes in to collect the paper
  - We saw a presentation about [Burr's Zero Waste Week](#) (ZWW) in the fall and some schools will be using their model to have ZWWs of their own this spring
  - The STEAM pollinator project is well underway. Soil testing is imminent
  - We are hoping to plant a tree on each campus for Arbor Day; letters will be sent to PTA presidents from Ryan Romeo requesting funding
  - We are working with the town to collaborate on the Earth Day beach clean up.
  - We will have a table at the 4/29 Earth Day event
- **Earth Day:** Larry Kaley, Mary Hogue

- Sat, 4/29, 10am-3pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road
  - Meeting with Maureen Scinto, who is the lead at the Y, bi-weekly; next meeting 3/10 4pm
  - See 2023 [FEDC\\_National Drive Electric Earth Day \(DEED\)\\_Healthy Kids Day\\_Bike Rodeo](#) Google doc for current information on planning
  - Larry will research when Fairfield Earth Day Celebration started to consider a “Fairfield Earth Day Celebration Through the Years”
  - “Clam Jam” and “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” events happening at the same time!!!

- **Reports for Sub-Committees**

- **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
  - Next meeting scheduled for 3/14
  - We were approached by Sheri Borrelli of UI about applying for the Community Partnership Initiative. Accordingly, we plan to submit an application by the March 17 deadline for a project to promote HES-IE and Heat Pump-IE to underserved populations in town (which coincides with our existing Heat Pump Fairfield campaign except that it more explicitly deals with Income Eligible populations.)
- **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
  - Municipal Fleet - In December, Gerald Foley contacted Daphne Dixon to identify a source to purchase Bolt EUV. Connected him and others in purchasing with Leo Karl Chevrolet. If the Town had purchased the vehicles in January, they would be delivered in April. On follow up, was told town staff needed to have test drives. Leo agreed to bring a vehicle out for test drives. On follow up this month, the town did not purchase the vehicles from Leo but Leo did confirm that the Town has placed an order for 15 vehicles. Leo noted it would take several months to have these vehicles delivered.
  - EV charging infrastructure at town hall should be done in about a month
  - The town will focus on the police fleet after the municipal fleet is complete
  - EV Charging at Fairfield Y - need Larry Kaley’s assistance - will follow up at our meeting tomorrow
  - Discussion about EV bus fleet for Fairfield Public Schools and the possibility to employ Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology; NOTE: Fairfield subcontracts buses, they do not own the buses so this may not be possible
  - Thu, 4/6 (day prior to Spring Break) 8:45am? (time not set in stone yet) Presentation to FWHS: Daphne to talk about cross-country tour last summer, Barry Kresh of EV Club of CT; **looking for EV’s and electric bikes to display** - MORE TO COME!

**Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell

- **Recycling and Waste Actions:**
  - Glass Recycling pilot – There was a discussion on how to increase the participation. Churches would be a great secondary location if they were willing, we will request of St Anthony’s of Padua and St Tim’s.
  - Food waste program - Possible secondary locations are the CT Audubon and Congress Fire station. These would likely be a three month trial to confirm that we are not getting contamination. Costs are \$325 / month for pick up of up to 4

bins. Misty Beyer will reach out to the Fire station and Becky will reach out to CT Audubon. Becky to draft letters to all of the local Grocery store managers requesting that they carry BPI certified bags. Dan is interested in setting up a fun “Scan Scraps” food waste recycling program in the Stratfield village area. Participants would get QR coded bags and get fun incentives for participation.

- OOPS stickers – There is still no update from the town on when this program will start.
- Mattress recycling event for spring – Bob Wall updated the group on the two dates May 6 and October 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-12:30pm at Veterans Park. Bob Wall will reach out to Jim Marren to get into Brenda’s newsletter and Rabab to promote on Social media. Becky will see if we can update the prior signage for Earth Day events.
- Seminars on recycling and composting - The libraries have been contacted about possible dates as well as CT Audubon.
- School recycling initiatives / Green Team - The green teams have been doing Milk carton recycling at Dwight and Stratfield. They will be working with the School administration as well as a sustainable CT grant opportunity to expand food waste recycling into four additional schools. A call will be set up with Curbside Compost to see if there is an opportunity to cost effectively recycling the compostable trays.
- Discount composter program – Novamont is not able to fund a grant this year so an alternate suggestion is to work with local hardware stores to promote at home composters
- Lee Sawyer grant updates - no updates
- Rotary Pillars of the Community – Becky is being recognized as one of the five Fairfield Rotary Pillars of the community who exemplify Rotary's motto of ***Service Above Self***. She will be honored at a (heavy) cocktail reception on [March 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30pm at the Gaelic Club, 74 Beach Road; tickets are \\$50 per person](#). Mary and Bob are drafting a short highlights write up.
- **Food Actions:**
  - Farmers market and sustainable food options outreach
- **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
- There are four Sustainability Plan modules that we must update and will work on getting this done asap
  - Forests and Trees: Peter Kraus
  - Sustainable Landscaping: Amanda Ingrassia and Ted Luchsinger
  - Parks and Open Spaces: Shawn O’Sullivan
  - Wetlands and Marshes: Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley and Bill Pollack
- See Forestry Committee update
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
- Heat Smart - Working on a grant specifically related to income eligible customers - funding will cover mailings, catered events, incentives to participate. Mark Barnhart will act as town lead. Potential to incentivize Op Hope by donating New England Smart Energy \$25 referral fee and using grant money for Stop N Shop gift cards or



- 3/26, 4-6pm, Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC), 70 Sanford Street, [Fairfield Osprey Movie](#) screening + panel
  - 4/11 11am-3pm Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield Forestry Committee [Plant-a-Seed Workshop \(and all things trees!\)](#)
  - 4/29, 10am-1pm Fairfield YMCA, 841 Old Post Road, Fairfield Earth Day Celebration, [National Healthy Kids Day](#), [National Drive Electric Earth Day](#)
  - 5/6, 8:30am-12:30pm Veteran's Park, 801 Reef Road (across from Rod Highway) Fairfield Spring 2023 Mattress Drop-off Day
- **Old Business**
  - **New Business**