



May 11, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Becky Bunnell, Kiersten Chou, Daphne Dixon, Larry Kaley, Rabab Hussain, Peter Kraus, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O'Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall

Liaisons: None

Guests: None

- **Meeting Minutes**

- Larry Kaley made a motion, Peter Kraus seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve Minutes as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld ○ Balance as of 5/9/2023 is **\$4,861.63**.

- Interim expenses:
 - Annual Zoom renewal \$159.42
 - Fairfield Museum staffing fee for SFTF event \$90.00
- SFTF has spent 23% of its assets since 7/1/22. SFTF has no appreciable income. Just sayin'.

- **Liaison Reports**

- **Bike-Ped:** TBD
- **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
- **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
 - [Presented](#) to approximately 1,500 students at four schools (McKinley, Jennings, North Stratfield and Burr Elementaries)
 - Used presentation materials for Earth Day, for which the majority of the committee volunteered
 - Will be planting 8 trees at schools this spring (Tomlinson Middle School - 2023 Fairfield Arbor Day tree and Dwight, Holland Hill, McKinley, Mill Hill - two trees, North Stratfield, Sherman Elementary Schools)
 - Will have planted approximately 80 trees for 2023 Spring Planting Season
 - 1720 Post Road Pocket Park nearing completion - looks FANTASTIC! Go visit, sit on the benches and enjoy the new look! THANK YOU [Oliver Nurseries and Design Associates](#)!!! They provided free landscape design and discounted plants.
 - Saved a sugar maple destined to be cut by property owner because neighbors called and upon research by the Engineering Department found that most of the tree was in the Town right-of-way. The Town will prune and take ownership.

(NOTE Experts say we will not be able to support sugar maples in Fairfield in 30 years due to climate change.)

- Posted monthly newsfeed article on descendant of Charter Oak, which has an informational sign next to it. It is located at the entrance to Town Hall off of Old Post Road. The Forestry Committee has committed to posting at least one newsfeed article a month going forward.
- **Flood and Erosion Control Board:** Becky Bunnell
 - Working on getting the Penfield pavilion resilience study done
 - Exploring grants to update the master FECB plan
- **Conservation / Inland Wetland Commissions:** Ted Luchsinger
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
 - Thank you for helping us promote our two recent Trivia Nights - we had great turnout and were able to fully fund 2 HS scholarship awards, \$1k each WHILE having fun
 - Saturday, May 13 - Walk & Talk re: Estuary educational program, meet at Ash Creek open space, parking lot near the playground, 1pm
 - Saturday, May 27, clean up, location TBD, 12-2
 - Saturday, June 3rd, National Trails Day, location TBD 10-11:30am
 - Sunday, June 4, Rockland Park Clean up, time TBD
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
- **Earth Day:** Larry Kaley, Mary Hogue
 - All it rained all day, all proclaimed the event a success!
 - Approximately 350 attendees
 - Need to post wrap up and pix from the event
 - Larry and Mary received Central Coastal CT YMCA Beacon of Light in our Community award for their collaboration on Earth Day - THANK YOU Becky and Doug for coming to the event
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
 - Still waiting to hear from UI on our Community Partnership Initiative grant for HES-IE and Heat Smart
 - Town applied for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (no project identified yet)
 - Doug and Bob working on Greenhouse Gas Inventory; several challenges remain including breakdown of vehicle make/model/year for 2015-21, home heating fuel breakdown (we have natural gas accounts only), and missing emission data from federal level
 - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
 - EPA Clean School Bus Grant has been released. Both school districts and service providers are eligible to apply. I met with Kevin Mathews, Head of Electrification for **First Student, US** and Canada regarding Fairfield last week. He said that First Student has the capacity to write 4 grants for Region 1 and they have not decided yet which

districts they will choose. The grant will still prioritize underserved school districts, but Fairfield would get 5 points for being in a nonattainment area. I talked with Angelus who thought First Student would be writing a grant for Fairfield.

- If First Student does not want to write a grant for Fairfield, the school district can submit one.
- I have also met with Kevin King, who is a Regional Director for First Student. Kevin used to work with Lion Electric Bus. Kevin was hired to help support ESB adoption in this region. He said he would speak with Kevin to get a definitive answer on whether or not they would be writing the grant.
- Also connected Angelus and Kevin so they could get on the same page. I also asked Kevin if he could work with Angelus to put together an ESB plan.

○ **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell

■ **Recycling and Waste Actions:**

- a. Glass Recycling pilot - We discussed reaching out to the churches again for secondary drop off locations as well as setting up a table at the farmers market for Glass drop offs (and other things) . Becky to reach out to Misty to see if she can work with the Highschool teams to help staff a table.
- b. Food waste program - The 40% off Kits program will continue until May 15. We are getting good response but could use additional publicity. Meghan will push it out through the green teams.
- c. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - We discussed maybe exploring grants for Headcount to staff a short term OPPS program effort.
- d. Mattress recycling event for spring – Fairly successful. 55 mattresses collected.
- e. Seminars on recycling and composting - Currently only planned event is at Fairfield Woods library on May 8th
- f. School recycling initiatives / Green team -Great things are happening in the schools. There was a BOE presentation, they are applying for a Sustainable CT grant to add 3 – 5 schools to the Food waste composting program. Share tables are being reinstated and now they need to re-engage the Schools on getting Food Rescue back. Mary will reach out to other towns to see if they can write letters.
- g. Discount composter program – This will run through May.
- h. Sustainable CT grant - The Green teams (Sustainability VP of the PTA council) - See above

■ **Food Actions:**

- a. Farmers market and sustainable food options outreach - We have not heard back yet on whether the Parks and Rec team (now running the Farmers Markets) will be willing to do a one year trial of the SNAP program. Once we do, assume they are willing, we will need to create outreach for this
- b. Flash Food app from Stop & Shop - The assortment is getting much better. We need to promote this to residents.
- c. Refill program - a letter will be sent to the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Economic Development office to recommend we start this program in Fairfield

- d. Brown paper bags at grocery stores - Becky to craft a note to the RTM based on the Stamford program
 - **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
 - See Forestry report
 - **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
 - HeatSmart/Energy efficiency: Becky has updated the survey with notes from Yale study and new questions, will integrate suggestions from Denise
 - Need to educate SFTF representatives on opportunities before approaching public - committee to connect with town officials, other to gather info
 - Greenfield St. project: Solar - Must first take down trees and evaluate for feasibility of solar. Habitat for Humanity working on bids, then can work on raising money via Sustainable CT matching grant
 - Fairfield designated as AARP Age-Friendly Community: survey to be distributed by town
 - <https://www.fairfieldct.org/news/?FeedID=5587>
 - **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
 - **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O’Sullivan
- **Sustainability Plan:** Bob Wall/Ron Blumenfeld
 - Updates to Sustainability Plan
 - 12/18 modules are in various stages of completion
 - 6/18 modules have not been submitted: Air Quality, Biking and Walking, Forests and Trees, Parks and Open Spaces, Transportation, Wetlands and Marshes.
 - **Key Upcoming Dates**
 - Sat, 5/13, 8am, Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum, 1530 Bronson Road, [Spring Bird Walk & Tree Tour](#)
 - Sat, 5/13, 1-2:30pm, Fairfield Marina/Open Space, 471 Turney Road, [Mill River Wetland Committee Walk & Talk: Learn about the Ash Creek estuary](#)
 - Sat, 5/13, 10am-5pm & 5/14 11am-5pm, Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, 1045 Old Academy Road, [86th Annual Dogwood Festival](#)
 - Sat, 5/20 11am-noon Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, [Fairfield Rotary Club Day of Service Ceremony](#)
 - 5/20, noon-2pm, Fairfield Grange #133, 1873 Hillside Road, [Pollinator Pathway Presentation, “Learn how to plant a pollinator garden” & Luncheon](#); All are welcome, Reservations required
 - Sat, 5/27, 11am-1pm, Southport Park, [Sasquanaug Association Earth Day](#) (rescheduled)
 - Sat, 6/3, 9am-1pm, Fairfield Warde High School, 755 Melville Avenue, [Sustainable Warde Club’s Townwide Redeemable Bottle & Can Fundraiser](#)
 - Sat, 6/3, 10am-noon, Friends of Lake Mohegan (FOLM), 960 Morehouse Highway, [iNaturalist Citizen Scientist Training for BioBlitz](#) (*Please download iNaturalist ahead of time and bring your phone*)

- Sat, 6/10, 10am-2pm, Ogden House, 1520 Bronson Road, [Open Garden Day](#)
 - Sat, 6/10, 10am-2pm, Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum, 1530 Bronson Road, **Open Garden Day**
 - Sat, 6/17, 10am-noon, Friends of Lake Mohegan (FOLM), 960 Morehouse Highway, [BioBlitz and Invasive Plant Pull event](#)
 - Sat, 6/17, 7pm, Park City Music Hall, 2926 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, [Tucker Fund Concert Fundraiser](#) (funds raised for plants in new Post Road Pollinator Pocket Park)
- **Old Business**
 - **New Business**