



**August 10, 2023**  
**7-8:30pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Liaisons:**

**Guests:**

- **Meeting Minutes**
  - Peter Kraus made a motion, Doug Price seconded, no discussion, unanimous vote to approve Minutes as submitted.
- **Treasurer Report:** Ron Blumenfeld
  - Balance as of 8/9/2023 is **\$4,736.63**. No activity. Last month's balance should have been the same as this month's.
- **Liaison Reports**
  - **Bike-Ped:** TBD
  - **Solid Waste & Recycling Commission:** Misty Beyer
    - 2023 Fairfield's Annual Haz Mat Day is Sat, 8/26, 9am-2pm, Veteran's Park, 909 Reef Road
  - **Fairfield Forestry Committee:** Mary Hogue
    - Met with Tim Bishop, Director of Conservation, to align efforts and set up quarterly meetings between Fairfield Pollinator Pathway and him
    - Determined that no new pollinator gardens will be installed without a group assigned to maintain it
    - Wrapping up finalization of orders, including Commemorative Trees, for Fall 2023 Tree Planting Program session; already have a lot of orders for Spring 2024 season!
    - Group has been working hard to prep for Sat, 8/12, 10-11am [Tree Walk](#) and 11:30am-noon [Nature-themed Sing-along](#) with the Fairfield Museum and History Center, special thanks to summer intern, Andrew Ung, for typing up the 20+ pages of songs to be shared via a web link
    - Education Committee has been working hard, with the aid of summer intern, Andrew Ung, to create labels for and organize the Traveling Tree Show materials

- Met with Fairfield Ludlowe High School (FLHS) Principal, Greg Hatzis; FLHS teacher and Aspetuck Land Trust (ALT); [Plan It Wild](#) VP of Science and Strategy, Bram Gunther regarding landscaping at the front of the school. Fairfield Public Schools has had the invasive burning bush and other shrubs removed and the plan is to replace with native trees and shrubs. It is hoped that ALT will help as this initiative continues and that we can plant this fall. ALT is also expected to help with doing similar native plant landscaping at Fairfield Warde High School (FWHS).
- Working with tree commissions throughout the state, wrote a letter to Governor Lamont in support of CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) Chair, Marissa Gillett - as a background, she has been hard on the utilities and a true advocate for consumers which could be a political liability as a government appointee
- Signed on the Vote Solar [letter on Performance Based Regulation](#) to CT Public Utility Regulation Authority (PURA) on [Docket #21-05015RE01](#)
- **Flood and Erosion Control Board:** Becky Bunnell
- **Conservation / Inland Wetland Commissions:** Ted Luchsinger
- **Mill River Wetland Committee:** Kiersten Chou
- **PTA Council:** Meghann McKale
  - Launched [fundraising website](#) for expanding composting in 5 more schools; hope to raise \$25k - please consider donating and sharing the link
  - Mill Hill PTA Presidents, Elly Fatehi and Lisa Alberts, along with Mill Hill Principal, Kevn Chase, attended a ceremony in Washington, DC to receive their Federal Department of Education Green Ribbon certification this week!
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Energy & Built Environment:** Bob Wall
    - Fairfield is one of six towns selected for the second round of *PowerSmart* campaign to promote solar plus battery storage systems.
    - Agreed to plan Net Zero & Sustainable Home Event on Oct. 22; will be held at home of Leigh Overland on Shoreham Terrace but will also feature existing homes that have undergone major energy/sustainability upgrades.
  - **Transportation:** Daphne Dixon
  - **Food & Waste:** Becky Bunnell
    - No meeting in August
    - Continue to man a table by volunteers - [please sign up here!](#) - to tell people about compost and glass drop off, sell compost kits and promote the [PTA Fundraiser to help expand composting in the schools](#), not this also includes funding of pumpkin composting again this fall
  - **Natural Environment:** Mary Hogue
    - SFTF members, Mary Hogue, Becky Bunnell and Lisa Alberts, Co-President of Mill Hill PTA, participated as a panelist on a [8/3 Sustainable CT webinar](#) on their special funding of composting initiatives highlighting our [fundraising website](#)
    - Looking into possibly creating another pollinator pathway pocket park at Veteran's Walk (across from Bob's on the Post Road) - need to confirm we have an organization to maintain the garden before proceeding
    - Ted Luchsinger continues to work with Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University on sustainability efforts

- Still waiting on a night light audit that Ted Luchsinger performed with Jim Ryan, Fairfield Building Maintenance Manager
- Discussed Environmental Rights Amendment - would like SFTF to promote via social media and providing postcards to attendees at events, Farmers Market, etc.
- Shawn O’Sullivan suggested working with the wood shops at the high schools to create wood pumpkins to sell as fundraisers and hopefully reduce the number of organic pumpkins purchased and subsequently throw out / compost
- Setting up meetings with sustainability experts and summer interns - it’s going very well and helping the students a lot
- Moving Sustainability Plan modules from Ron to the Equity Committee as they get completed
- **Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O’Sullivan
  - Environmental Rights Amendment - Mary to send links to sign up for updates, UPDATE - Mary set up a folder in SFTF drive with info
  - Sustainability Plan review update - Shawn, Emma, Becky to contact owners of documents with changes
  - HeatSmart -
    - **\*\*\*We need a tagline/incentive to encourage people to speak with us.** Some thoughts/examples:
      - Encouraging community action put Fairfield on a more sustainable path (too general)
      - Connecting resources to build sustainability in ALL our Fairfield communities
      - Suggested language:
        - partners
        - amplify voices
        - inviting
        - co-creating
        - listening
        - inclusive
    - Survey in a google form
    - Farmer’s Market - HES sign up
    - Becky - update from NESE: We can not “tag along” on their audits at low-income identified homes
    - Information gathering to begin - original assignments:
      - Emma - Gould Manor, Jackman Park, Little League games
      - Becky/Reini - Laundromats
      - Mary - Bigelow center
      - Emma - neighborhood associations (Stratfield Village, Dylan O’Conner)
      - Other to discuss: religious institutions, facilities outside of Fairfield, food stamp recipients, 8-30g landlords, Food stamp recipients (Shawn)
      - Operation Fuel - MARY
      - 8-30g landlords - REINI to contact Emmaline or Mark
      - State Reps - TBD
  - No SNAP at Farmer’s Market!
    - Arguments in favor: free for vendors, other high income communities allow

- \*\*\*SFTF volunteers to approach vendors at the Farmer's Market and get their support of accepting SNAP
  - Heat Island issue – UPDATE: cooling centers listed on SFTF media
  - School redistricting - issue is HOUSING and lack of affordable options throughout the town
    - How should SFTF act appropriately?
    - Jenn Jacobs made great statement at meeting
    - Should there be something in the POCD?
- **Communication & Outreach:** Rabab Hussain
  - Please see [Sustainable Fairfield Initiative Promotion Guidelines\\_081023](#)
- **Advocacy:** Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - Request the ability for SFTF to sign on to the [letter on Performance Based Regulation](#) to CT Public Utility Regulation Authority (PURA) on [Docket #21-05015RE01](#)
  - [Environmental Rights Amendment](#): bi-weekly meetings of advocates; legislation was proposed and did not make it out of committee in the 2023 Legislative Session; NOTE: There is a march 9/17 in NYC - if you are interested please see
  - [Clean Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicle Emissions Standards](#) comments due 8/23, we will be working on a letter for SFTF to send
- **Climate Change Redux**
  - **Bike Pedestrian**
  - **Resiliency Project Status:** Becky Bunnell
    - Fact sheet about the *High Intensity Wave Study*
  - **Climate Change & Equity:** Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
  - **Climate Change & Communications:** Rabab Hussain
    - *New Sustainable Fairfield Initiative Promotion Guidelines*
  - **Climate Change Other Priorities:** All
  - **Fall Event(s):** Net Zero Energy & Sustainable Home Event (proposed date 10/22)

### Key Upcoming Dates

- Sat, 8/12, 10-11am, [What's That Tree? A Guided Tree Walk](#), \$5 Museum members, \$10 General Public
- Sat, 8/12, 11:30am-noon, [Sing Me a Story with Fairfield Public Library](#), FREE
- Every Sunday, 10am-2pm Sherman Green Farmer's Market - looking for [volunteers to man table for 2hr shifts](#)
- Mon, 8/14, 9-10am, [CTLCV Climate, Coffee & Conversation](#) with Trumbull State Representatives and other advocates, Mariana's Pantry, 6528 Main Street, Trumbull
- Wed, 8/16, 10-11am, [CT Compost Alliance Monthly Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
- Thu, 8/17, 10-11:30am, [CT Solid Waste Data: Annual Reporting Stakeholder Engagement \(Zoom\)](#)
- Thu, 8/17, 2-3pm [Spotlight on the Reuse Solutions Network \(Zoom registration\)](#)
- Thu, 8/17, 6-7:30pm, Fairfield Bike-Ped Committee Meeting, Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, 1st Floor Conference Room / Webex - check town website for agenda for how to login
- Sat, 8/19, 10am-noon, Friends of Lake Mohegan, 901 Morehouse Highway

- Sun, 8/20, 10am-noon, RAIN DATE Friends of Lake Mohegan, 901 Morehouse Highway
  - Sun, 8/20, 4:30-5:30pm, [Organizing Call for 9/17 Climate March \(Zoom registration\)](#)
  - Tue, 8/22, 9:30-11am, [Fairfield Forestry Committee Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Tue, 8/22, 6:30-7:30pm, CT Energy Network's monthly pow-wow (Zoom)
  - Sat, 8/26, 9am-2pm, Veterans Park, 909 Reef Road
  - Sat, 8/26, 10am-3pm, Greenfield Hill Grange Agricultural Fair, [Greenfield Hill Grange 133](#), 1873 Hillside Avenue
  - 8/29, First Day of Fairfield Public Schools
  - Wed, 8/30, 2-3pm, [Your Mileage May Vary – Undergrounding Distribution Lines \(Zoom link\)](#)
  - Thu, 8/31, 9:45-10:45am, [SFTF Equity Committee Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Thu, 8/31, time TBD, [Sustainable Fairfield County Food Scrap & More Monthly Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Fri, 9/1, 8-9am [SFTF Food & Waste Committee Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Mon, 9/4, Labor Day
  - Tue, 9/5, 4-5pm, [CT Lights Out Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Wed, 9/6, 6pm, Rotary Room, Fairfield Main Library, 1080 Old Post Road, MetroCOG Update to Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Thu, 9/7, 1-2pm [CT Performance Based Regulation \(PBR\), Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Tue, 9/12, 8-9 am [SFTF Energy & Built Environment Committee Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)
  - Thu, 9/14, 7-8:30pm, [SFTF Meeting](#)
  - Sun, 9/17, NYC, March to End Fossil Fuels (more info to come on coordinated bus/train transportation)
- **Old Business**
  - **New Business**