

**Sustainable Westport Advisory Team**  
**Thursday, March 5th, 7pm**  
**Westport Town Hall, Room 309**

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Check in / Welcome
2. Public Comment Sheri Jagerson shared RTM native species petition that SW members will sign and then send to Tree Board. Also allows Tree Board to apply for grants to plant trees.
3. Approval of the February minutes and associated follow-ups (grid in minutes) approved

Nicholas Eisenberger recapped meeting with Superintendent regarding hiring and selection of the new Superintendent candidate. Made connection with the schools administration and planning to invite new Superintendent to Sustainable Westport.

4. Special Items for discussion
  - a. Recap of 2020 Planning Meeting – Peter gave a recap of the planning meeting. He distinguished rocks/pillars that belong to the town versus those that belong to the group of volunteers. Nico and Tony recommended celebrating and tracking progress be added to the group’s pillars. No further changes/group validated the conclusion of the Planning Meeting.
  - b. Structure update – Peter discussed this weeks’ meeting with Jim Marpe, Eileen Flug and Sara Harris, specifically the change in the structure making SW a separate body. Nico expressed concerns with separating from the town, that there would be a loss in status from solely being an Earthplace 501c3. It was agreed with him and Peter Boyd that this should have further thought and discussion. Pippa acknowledged that this structure looks more like Bedford 2020. Peter Boyd has already discussed this with David Mann. Peter Ratkewich questioned, what will happen to this group with an administration change that doesn’t support sustainability.

Nico noticed that once a 501c3, there will be a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the status. Diana Mashia said that this change might be perceived as less supportive of sustainability from the town. Tony McDowell stated that Bedford 2020 is ahead of us and the only way to get there is to be independent. Pete Ratkewich suggested that operating under Earthplace is preferred now so that the administrative burden is not so prevalent right now, but as the group gets strengthened, it can consider becoming its own 501c3. Since all comments and facts came out, Peter Boyd asked the group to think on this and work out the pros and cons. In the interim, the revised Power Point is with Eileen Flug for a final approval on what was agreed upon. The group divided up some other local town bodies to research and come back to compare, that is Diana- Oregon, WA- Tony, MA- Nico, Sustainable Princeton- Dawn. Sara will get Eileen Flug’s examples of other “Friends of” groups to allay the fear that this change is going to lead to reduced effectiveness.

5. Team Member Updates
  - a. Review of overall progress and priorities: <http://bit.ly/SustWest>
  - b. AWARE & EDUCATED COMMUNITY
    - Website is live! – [sustainablewestport.org](http://sustainablewestport.org)
    - Earth Day Update – Tony & Pippa library space with a series of events on food waste. Peter will discuss net zero by 2050, will start to sell compost bins – a whole series of events around food waste. Saturday at Earthplace will be yoga in the woods, learn how to fly-fish
    - Award Plaques and ceremony at Earth Day – Dawn/Steve Steve is working with Tesla on tile roofs. CityBench is cutting the plaque with logo. Will do an order of 50. \$2k for the wood and

logos. Dawn will get a prototype. Motion Steve, Greg second to support \$2k for 50 plaques. Motion carries. Pete Ratkiewich suggested that we quarterly review the budget because Steve Edwards is charging it down for solar projects. The balance is \$16k and is going down to \$9k after pending expenses. Boyd is going to look over the accounting.

- Environmental Learning Series – Tony Pollinator Pathway, Goodstein at Earthplace, Bill McDonnough working on a funding match. All ELS is SW branded. Tony and Nico will include Diana so she is aware.
- Social Media update – Diana 50 new followers, 9 posts. Consolidating all accounts into one account and using Hoot Suite. Pete Ratkiewich requested that the food scrap event get advertised on social media and need to get information on the website.

#### c. LEADER DEVELOPMENT

- Student update – Emma and/or Pippa 600 starter kits ordered. Sign for transfer station ordered. Connected with zero waste committee at Staples. Welcomed some new members to the team. April 4 will be first day of volunteer training. Week of 11<sup>th</sup> press release. Then food scraps drop off. 22nd will be challenge and proclamation. Getting info on website, looking for volunteers for table events and social media. Volunteer schedule for April and May was shown. [Zerowaste@sustainablewestport.org](mailto:Zerowaste@sustainablewestport.org). Need to put up that we are looking for volunteers, but Pete Ratkiewich is concerned that the public might be confused and people will start bringing food waste to the transfer station. There were two bidders to the RFP and will award to Curbside Composting.
- Leaf blower leader identification brainstorm – Tony Tony sent out a packet. He has posters and will make a one-pager. Regarding Marpe meeting, there is more support on neighborhood led initiative.
- Superintendent search – Nico Nico will follow up
- Initiative targeting/segmentation example – Dawn Peter highlighted Dawn's work on a sample marketing strategy output for the food waste team that could be offered to future teams (to be shared with this group at a future meeting)
- Fundraising – Peter

#### d. PROGRESS TRACKING

##### BUILDINGS

- Update on HB 5008: stretch building codes – David Steve will talk with David and David will make a recommendation
- Library's Green Building Award application update – Peter B great feedback, nod to Pippa on library's award, but also a lot that they have to do still. If there is anything we want raised, Peter Boyd is meeting with Bill Harmer and is looking to know if we have anything we want Bill to incorporate.

##### ENERGY

- VNM update – David 4mw approved – all that was asked for

##### TRANSPORT

- [NBC clip](#) for Police Tesla – Dawn watched the clip

##### LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES

- Food Waste update and flyer feedback – Pippa done

#### e. TOWN COUNSEL & COURAGE

- SustainableCT – Sara

6. Wrap Up and Agree action list Sara will redirect the WeGreen website to the new site. Nico will follow up on the superintendent, Pete will work on a training program for volunteers, Steve is scheduling a library walk through, Greg will work on the website fixes and post for volunteers. Diana will research municipalities, Tony will work on wording for the tree ordinance, get artwork research MA, and draft one-pager on leaf blowers. Dawn will

research Sustainable Princeton, plaque prototype and summarize structure pros and cons, Peter Boyd will send emails to the Tree Warden and do a budget review. David to make recommendation on pending stretch building codes legislation.