

**Sustainable Westport Advisory Team
Thursday, July 16th, 7pm**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

PowerPoint slides to be referenced in this meeting (link updated 24hrs prior to each meeting):

<http://bit.ly/SustWestPpt>

1. Check-In / Welcome

- Chair Peter Boyd opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.
 - Present - Peter Boyd, Dawn Henry, Pete Ratkiewich, Tony McDowell, David Mann, Greg Zola, Sara Harris, Nico Eisenberger, Sam Carpenter
 - Absent - Steve Smith, Diana Mashia, Chris Breyan

2. Public comment

- None

3. Approval of Minutes

- Approved as distributed

4. To-Do List from last meeting

- To-Dos were reviewed from June's minutes. The status was updated on screen:
 - Trademark license - received and updated, edits came back from Town on 7/16, and Tony will update Earthplace Executive Committee with new document in August
 - Stakeholder discussion guide revision – done and in slides
 - Expand Environmental Learning series – not yet progressed, Library focused on reopening, SW focused on Zero Food Waste webinars
 - Zero Food Waste webinars – done
 - Post for volunteer website admin – not yet done
 - Tree ordinance – on hold as we might not need one, but RTM not meeting to discuss this until September. Nico offered to help Tony on this.
 - Quiet communities – decided to put on hold until 501c3 structure is in place
 - Other Towns research – Tony did cursory research in Massachusetts and found a variety of models we could review further, Nico on Bedford 2020 tbc

5. Special Items

a. Equity & Sustainable Westport

- Group heard from 3 guest speakers. Highlights captured below.

i. TEAM Westport – Harold Bailey, Chair

- There are just as many people in any population and racial group who are funny, smart, musical, etc.
- It's the policies that are creating disparities between people, not differences in the people themselves
- There no such thing as a racist person, there are only racist or anti-racist thoughts or actions.
- The story of race is a long and complicated one. The laws, interpretation of laws, and associated consequence have never really been resolved.
- It's not the case that white people are the "normal" or "regular" ones and everyone else is something different. Being white is "a thing" just like being Asian or Black.

- There was a history of slaves in Westport and other parts of the North too. Back in 1700-early 1800s, many of our roads were built and land cleared by slaves. As late as 1960s the Town was still intentionally excluding Blacks, Jews, and Asians.
- Westport students need to be equipped to work in a world with people of color, and often they aren't getting that experience here. Zoning restrictions on single family dwellings don't allow for diversity of housing and therefore people.
- Three types of bias to be aware of:
 - Conscious bias – the person is very clear about their attitudes and their related behaviors are conducted with intent (e.g. the NYC woman who called police about the bird watcher)
 - Unconscious bias – operates outside the person's awareness and can be a direct contradiction to a person's espoused values (e.g. the person who says both genders are equal but then assumes the man in a couple must be the doctor)
 - Micro aggression – back-handed slights (e.g. the teacher who only hands the Hispanic student the financial aid package)
- Harold covered some of the recent initiatives that TEAM Westport has been part of, including but not limited to, a 10 point action plan for improving equity in education.

ii. SustainableCT – Lynn Stoddard, Exec Director & Ashley Stewart, Equity Coach

Lynn congratulated Westport on its Bronze Certification in 2018 and recapped Sustainable CT's role in Equity. They define sustainability very broadly, as in "what makes the town a great place to live" and that has to do not only with protection of resources but also about what values a town has. They believe in helping to lift everyone's voices, and encouraging municipalities to change decision-making processes so that they co-create what will work for a diverse community.

Ashley introduced herself as Sustainable Westport's Equity coach. Some of her key pieces of advice included: Diversity shouldn't be about "helping people of color," but rather about making sure the group isn't missing out on the unique contributions that a diverse team can bring. Some of the first steps should be to become learners, understand your own biases, and look inward. She also suggested thinking about what our definition of a "green town" is – for example, if we're just shipping our waste somewhere else, we don't get to claim we're zero waste!

Next Steps that were discussed:

- Harold to circulate a reading list, including both national and local sources
- Sustainable Westport to think about connections between Equity and Environment
- Explore how we support and subsequently learn from a Desegregate CT analysis of Westport
- Set up future meetings with Ashley and begin coaching process
- David to report back on learnings from the Sustainable CT training

iii. Other guest viewpoints welcome

6. Team Member Updates

a. Review of overall progress & priorities

b. AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY

i. Updated Resource page on website – Greg

Peter let the group know the new website categories are up (thanks Greg!), next step is to start filling them with content

ii. Revised stakeholder interview plan – Dawn

Dawn quickly reviewed revised stakeholder interview plan. Peter & Dawn to follow up on next steps.

iii. Other town research – Tony

Tony's research on Massachusetts showed many models we could review further.

c. PROGRESS TRACKING

i. Land & Natural Resources

1. Food waste update – Pippa & Pete

Pippa updated the group on the launch of transfer station food scraps recycling, and noted that they are looking for volunteers every Saturday if any Sustainable Westport members are interested. We now have 15 partner organizations with the addition of NGO Sustainability, a group that is offering to pick up food scrap bins from homeowners for a suggested donation. As of the meeting date, we had received 120 requests for starter kits. Grow-a-row produce collection is going well. And 3 webinars have been successfully completed.

2. Tree ordinance – Tony

The goal is to work with the Town to improve and protect native trees, species, and their food sources. Ordinance document currently on hold pending further discussions.

ii. Transport?

No update

iii. Buildings?

No update

iv. Energy – David

David updated the group that the 4th megawatt of offsite solar (Virtual Net Metering) is on track. But the application for solar installation at Bedford Middle School was withdrawn by the Administration earlier in the day.

d. LEADER DEVELOPMENT

e. TOWN COUNSEL AND COURAGE

7. Other small but important updates

- License agreement – Peter

Edits came back from Town on 7/16, next step is Tony will update Earthplace Executive Committee with new document in August

- Defining Net-Zero paper – Peter

Peter shared update on his paper and invited review: <https://cbey.yale.edu/research/defining-net-zero>

8. Wrap-up and Agree action list

- Harold to circulate a reading list, including both national and local sources
- Sustainable Westport to think about connections between Equity and Environment
- Conduct Desegregate CT analysis of Westport
- Set up future meetings with Ashley and begin coaching process
- David to report back on learnings from the Sustainable CT training
- Tony to update on license agreement and Exec Team/Board on 501c3

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. (There is no August meeting, next one is Thursday September 3rd)

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