

Sustainable Westport Advisory Team
Thursday, October 1st, 7pm
Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Link to deck referenced in meeting: <http://bit.ly/SustWestPpt>

1. Check-In / Welcome – Peter called meeting to order at 7:05

Present: Sam Carpenter, Pete Ratkiewich, Sara Harris, Greg Zola, Dawn Henry, Peter Boyd, Diana Mashia, Nico Eisenberger, Tony McDowell

Absent: Steve Smith, David Mann, Chris Breyan

2. Public comment - None

3. Approval of Minutes - Approved without changes

4. To-Do List from last meeting

- Greg: update the website with the Equity reading list, and contact Sustainable Princeton to obtain permission to use some of their content. SP contacted, Equity reading list to be live end of day Oct 1
- Tony: Brand license, 9/23. Done, executed DBA
- Tony: ELS with Nico and Peter. ELS speaker update Wanjiku Gatheru scheduled for December 16th; back and forth with Bill McD for 2nd half of January
- Dawn: create content for Instagram post for Drive Electric campaign. Will follow up on people's involvement related to structure changes. Done. Also picking up award plaques next week.
- Sara: Will craft a memo explaining to the town how the new structure will work. Work in progress, discussion started and some excitement
- Peter B: Structure. Note on anti-idling. Follow-up on people's involvement. Done.
- Nico: Help ELS, Superintendent, and help with school commuting recommendations. Done, note sent.
- Peter R.: Continuation of food waste campaign and execution. Done. Restarted after storm with one more staff to handle 400 cars/hr, working well

5. Special Items

- a. Structure update – Brand License has been approved by Earthplace's Board, and now goes back to Eileen Flug and Jim Marpe for signature.
- b. Role transition – All volunteers have indicated preference to move over to 501c3. Several questions about future roles and responsibilities will need to be answered once the transition is complete. Sara will regroup with Town staff and discuss how things will work going forward and will produce a memo on next steps for all Sustainable Westport Advisory Team members.

6. Team Member Updates

a. PROGRESS TRACKING

i. Land & Natural Resources

1. Food waste update – big thanks to all volunteers helping to make the program a success, it continues to go well with 0.5 ton or more collected each week, awareness and usage continue to increase, and team is seeking ideas for getting the word out to a broader audience.

ii. Transport

1. EV Parade recap – Dawn – Successful event with 30+ EVs participating in Westport to Fairfield parade, led by Police Tesla Model 3. Jim Marpe made introductory remarks and kicked off the parade. Event was part of a bigger program of Drive

Electric Week programming led by Sustainable Fairfield. Looking forward to participating in similar events and identifying ways to make them bigger and more impactful to encourage more residents to electrify their transportation.

2. Anti-idling notice recap – Peter B – Thanks to Pippa, Nico, and Peter B for crafting an article for Dan Woog to encourage people to shut off engines while waiting. [not covered in the meeting, but Woog published this piece a few days later on Oct 7th]

iii. Energy

1. Community Choice Aggregation – Sam - Drafted a letter to get CT Energy Network on DEEP's EE board; pushing for Community Choice Aggregation to be legal. Will be circulated for edit and signature

iv. Buildings

- b. AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY
- c. LEADER DEVELOPMENT
- d. TOWN COUNSEL AND COURAGE

7. Wrap-up and Agree action list

- All – submit Sustainability Debate questions to Tony & Pippa
- Diana - on Social Media: just under 1500 followers – goal 2000 by year end, get 500 more members. Will circulate a wish list of content areas for people to contribute to.
- Tony - on Environmental Debates for upcoming election – trying to set a date but currently trying to get an hour/two. David first right of refusal to chair/host.
- Greg - upload the Equity reading list
- Dawn- Circulate final minutes
- Sara - work on memo to explain structure and set up of staff group. Talk with schools about ongoing involvement
- David - community energy with Sam; VNM; with Peter on P&Z
- Peter w Sara to help with memo and work out format of subsequent meetings
- Nico: Bill McD for Jan, ping WPS superintendent to follow up on email outreach
- Pete R: “continue” VNM implementation with David (Bedford/Staples) and holiday
- Sam: Community Aggregation CT Energy Network letter

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