

MINUTES - FINAL

Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING

March 4, 2021

Attendance: Jill Oberlander, Committee Chair; Sarah Coccaro; Karyn Calcano; Ashley Cole; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; JoAnn Messina; Aleksandra Moch; Cheryl Moss; Sharon Psychojas, Urling Searle; Eli Schafer, Audubon Greenwich; Svetlana Wasserman; Ani Widham. Philip Dodson, RTM D8.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.
2. **Minutes.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved.
3. **Discussion of 2021 Priorities.** Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Searle shared a status update on the draft Sustainability Plan, including recent and upcoming sector meetings. Members suggested adding an Introduction page that explains the Sustainability Committee and identifies committee-wide goals. **Next Steps:** A draft of the proposed plan will be distributed to Committee members for consideration at the April meeting.
4. **Sustainable CT Status Update:** Ms. Coccaro updated the Committee on the Sustainable CT application status, indicating that Department of Human Services Commissioner Demetria Nelson will be submitting a project related to effective, compassionate homelessness prevention/response.

Equity Project. Ms. Ghiorse and Ms. Coccaro reported on meetings with the YWCA and First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee (FSDAC), and on Sustainable CT's equity training. The Committee discussed that a valid process leads to true equity. **Next Steps:** Ms. Coccaro and Ms. Ghiorse will invite the FSDAC to an upcoming Sustainability Committee meeting.
5. **Earth Day Initiatives.** The theme for 2021 is "Restore Our Planet" and the motto is "participation is perfection." Ms. Coccaro will be working with the schools alliance (public and private to see what types of initiatives can be implemented. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy will be hosting a commemoration event on or around Arbor Day. One suggestion was to thank frontline workers at the Gratitude Groves. Pollinator Pathways will be working to prepare a resolution for the Board of Selectmen review and adoption. Ms. Klockenbrink reported that the pollinator mural has been approved and that the Department of Public Works is helping obtain State approval. In addition, they have been focused on edible landscapes and school planting programs. The Conservation Commission is sponsoring a lecture series with the Cos Cob Library with the theme "One Air, Water & Land." Lastly, Greenwich Green & Clean and Skip the Straw are sponsoring a Live Like Luke Beach Clean-up on April 24th. **Next steps:** Develop a press release on all the Town Earth Day activities.

- 6. Legislative/Advocacy Update.** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved issuing a statement in support of a revised bottle bill. Ms. Messina agreed to distribute talking points on a tree bill being considered by the CT General Assembly. Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Wasserman reported on the RTM consideration of the plastic bag ordinance. Ms. Moch reported on advocacy efforts related to the Bike Planning Study.
- 7. Public Engagement Initiatives.** The Committee discussed how to best publicize Sustainability Committee initiatives and agreed to look for a volunteer with public relations and marketing experience. Ms. Klockenbrink stated that a series of articles planned through local media, including the Greenwich Free Press, could contribute to the promotion of Sustainability Committee efforts. The Committee agreed to further develop its email contact list as well as other forms of technology.
- 8. New Business/Next Steps.**

The next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary