MINUTES - DRAFT

Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING

May 6, 2021

Attendance: Committee members: Jill Oberlander, Co-Chair; Pat Sesto, Co-Chair; Sarah Coccaro; Karyn Calcano; Ashley Cole; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Myra Klockenbrink; JoAnn Messina; Aleksandra Moch; Sharon Psyhojas; Susan Rudolph; Uling Searle; Eli Schaffer; Silvina Skverer; Allison Walsh. Invited guests: Margarita Alban, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission; Katie DeLuca, Town Planner.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

2. **Minutes.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

3. **Planning & Zoning Initiatives.** Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Margarita Alban and Town Planner Katie DeLuca presented Planning & Zoning’s vision for implementing the Plan of Conservation and Development, including some of its guiding principles and priorities for near term action. See presentation material attached. The Committee engaged in dialogue about some of Planning & Zoning’s initiatives, including landscape regulations, to advocate for the use of native species, greenway projects to connect neighborhoods, and the adoption of regulations that incentivize homeowners and local business owners to implement sustainable practices.

4. **2021 Priorities Document.** Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Searle shared an initial draft of the Sustainability Committee’s 2021 Priorities document. The content was developed by each sector chair and incorporates work initiated and planned and also identifies various community partners. Committee members suggested that the introductory page highlight the Plan of Conservation and Development, Sustainable CT, and equity. **Next steps:** Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Searle to circulate an introductory section with the expectation that the Committee will vote to adopt the 2021 Priorities Document at the June meeting.

5. **Sector Updates.**

   - Ms. Calcano presented an update from the Marketing/PR sector, having recently volunteered to coordinate this effort (see report attached). **Next steps:** start discussions on a marketing/public relations plan that will allow the Committee to be more strategic and proactive. One suggestion was turning the monthly sector reports into a newsletter.

   - Ms. Walsh updated the Committee on the First Selectman’s Energy Management Advisory Committee, formed earlier this year. This Committee has identified three goals: to identify energy-conservation projects that the Town can implement in the near term; to submit a report on Committee’s efforts in its first six months; and to develop long-term, energy saving project recommendations. There are two sub-committees: the baseline committee, which is evaluating all town facilities and their usage, not including...
Greenwich Communities (formally Housing Authority), and the benchmarking committee, which is speaking with other municipalities to see how they’ve reduced their municipal energy usage.

- Other sector reports can be found with the meeting materials.

6. **Sustainable CT Status Update:** Ms. Coccaro reminded the SC members of our impending August deadline for the SCT application and to continue working with Conservation staff to document action items.

7. **New Business/Next Steps:** No new business was discussed.

The next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

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Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary