

MINUTES – DRAFT

Sustainability Committee Meeting – via Zoom

July 7, 2022

Attendance: Committee members: Janet Stone McGuigan, Co-Chair; Patricia Sesto, Karyn Calcano; Fred Camillo; Sarah Coccaro; Julie DesChamps; Jimena Fernandez; Susan Foster; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; Lauren Mullen; Jeff Robertson; Urling Searle; Joan Seguin; Susan Rudolph;

Public attendees: Ryan Fazio; Nicole Freitas; Andrew Fisher; Kim Gregory, Alex Rodriguez

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

Committee members introduced themselves to new Committee member, Luran Mullen (new co-chair of the PR sector) and guests from Save the Sound and state senator, Ryan Fazio.

2. **Minutes.** Upon a duly motion made and seconded, the minutes from the June 2, 2022 meeting were approved.

3. **Plan for meeting with CT DEEP Commissioner Dykes**

Ms. Stone McGuigan reported that she invited department heads to the meeting with Commissioner Dykes on Friday, July 29th at 10am. The purpose of the meeting is to inquire about potential state and federal funding available to Greenwich.

Fred Camillo joined the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

4. **Grant information**

Ms. Ghiorse and Ms. Klockenbrink introduced the grant information Google spreadsheet document.

5. **Sector Updates:**

- a. Ms. Stone McGuigan updated the Committee on the 'Climate Emergency Resolution' recently presented by the GHS Environmental Action Club at the last Board of Selectman meeting. The BOS will vote on the resolution at the July 14th meeting.

Susan Foster joined the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

- b. Ms. Fernandez reported on the letter of intent by the Greenwich Botanical Center on a climate resiliency grant.
- c. Land and Water sector – Ms. Klockenbrink reported on the work of Greenwich Pollinator Pathways working with multiple stakeholders, volunteers and interns to rehab and restore Strickland Brook near the Cos Cob library. She also reported on the Friends of

Pomerance, Pinetum and Tuchman working with P&R and the Greenwich Youth Conservation Program. Ms. Stone McGuigan recommended all sectors look to partner with the First Selectman's Youth Committee for sustainability projects.

- d. Waste Reduction sector – Ms. DesChamps reported on the 'Zero Waste' initiative presented for a first read at the last Board of Education meeting. The Food Matters Challenge is coming to an end this week, with a celebration schedule for some time in September.
- e. Food Systems sector – Ms. Ghiorse encouraged the Committee members to review the hyperlinks at the end of sector report.
- f. Ms. Sesto acknowledged and praised Ms. Moch and all the supporting members for the E-EXPO event.
- g. Ms. Stone McGuigan gave kudos to Ms. Seguin and the Shellfish Commission for the Experience the Sound event and opportunity for the Sustainability Committee to meet with community members.
- h. Ms. Stone McGuigan reported on EMAC's proposal at the upcoming July 14th BOS meeting to consider a non-binding agreement with Eversource as a purchaser of an unbuilt upstate solar farm.
- i. Ms. Stone McGuigan reported that the First Selectman's Bike Task Force is interested in the town pursuing a 'complete streets' approach.

6. Old Business

- a. Ms. Fernandez asked if it would be prudent to work on creating a Greenwich-specific climate change issues document. The Committee supported her endeavor.

7. New Business/ Next Steps

- a. In lieu of August meeting, an Audubon-led bird watch?
Committee agreed. **Action item:** Ms. Stone McGuigan to schedule.
- b. Reschedule September committee meeting later in the month and design as a strategy session for the upcoming year?
Rescheduled to September 15th in person with hybrid option.
- c. Ms. Mullen, new co-chair of the PR sector with Ms. Calcano, answered questions about her approach to building public awareness of the Sustainability Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 29th, 10 AM via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Sarah Cocco
Conservation Resource Manager