

MINUTES – DRAFT

Sustainability Committee Meeting – via Zoom

July 29, 2022

Attendance: Committee members: Janet Stone McGuigan, Co-Chair; Patricia Sesto, Co-Chair; Sarah Cocco; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Jimena Fernandez; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; Jeff Robertson; Urling Searle; Svetlana Wasserman;

Town officials, staff, members, and members of the public: Harry Fisher; Tracy Freeman; Arn Welles; Tony Turner; Lauren Toretta; Peter Schweinfurth; Greg Kramer; Blaize Levitan; Steve Meskers; Dan Carlsen; Terri Browne Kutzen; Rosalynn Grywinski

CT DEEP: Commissioner Katie Dykes; Harrison Nantz

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. Mr. Stone McGuigan introduced the Sustainability Committee members and other callers on the meeting, including special guest, CT DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes.

Discussion ensued around potential state and federal funding opportunities to municipalities to support sustainability- related activities, specifically:

- Climate Resiliency: Ms. Sesto summarized Greenwich’s Coastal Resiliency Assessment and Plan studies. Ms. Dykes indicated there is available funding for microgrids and a new “[climate resilience](#)” fund. Other opportunities includes FEMA’s [BRIC program](#), CIRCA’s technical assistance, and Clean Water Fund.
- Energy reductions in school buildings: Ms. Dykes spoke about Energize CT programs through utilities and air quality improvements through EPA grants.
- E-lawn care equipment: Mr. Levitan stated that Parks and Recreation is looking to transition gas-power lawn equipment to electric and seeking possible funding opportunities. Ms. Dykes spoke about the funding from “Passports to Parks” to help state park maintenance, but now, no funding for municipalities. She will check with her air quality team and the EPA.
- Electric Vehicles (EVs) for municipal fleet: Ms. Toretta inquired about funding opportunities for new EVs and conversion to EVs for municipal fleet. Ms. Dykes shared Governor Lemont’s [press release](#) and [CHEAPR](#) rebate program. Ms. Dykes also indicated that CT DEEP will be going for Volkswagen settlement funding to pay for more EV charging stations that are publicly accessible and that there is movement from the EPA to fund E-school buses and other vehicles in a municipal fleet.
- Waste reduction: Ms. Dykes spoke about [CCSMM](#) and monies available in grant funding. She also gave the Meriden food scrap ‘co-collection’ pilot case study for reducing waste.

3. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1st at 11 a.m. – bird watch at Greenwich Audubon.

The next regularly scheduled Sustainability meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th at 11 a.m.

Sarah Cocco
Conservation Resource Manager

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