

MINUTES - FINAL

Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING

January 7, 2021

Attendance: Jill Oberlander, Committee Chair; Pat Sesto, Committee Co-Chair; Sarah Cocco; Ashley Cole; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; JoAnn Messina; Allison Walsh and Svetlana Wasserman.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.
2. **Minutes.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the December 10, 2020 meetings were approved as amended.
3. **Sustainable CT Project Support.** Ms. Cocco reported on the recertification process for Sustainable CT and asked Committee members to incorporate their comments and progress updates into a shared document that will be the foundation for the Town's application for recertification. **Next Steps: (1) Committee members are encouraged to review the Sustainable CT website for information on 2021 project goals. (2) Ms. Cocco will distribute Sustainable CT project documents to sector chairs.**
 - a. **Update on Equity Issues.** Ms. Cocco and Ms. Ghiorse reported on their conversation with Giovanna Adams, Sustainable CT's equity coach. The Committee approved inviting Ms. Adams to the next Committee meeting to start to explore how to discuss equity and also how to approach other community stakeholders. **Next Steps: Ms. Cocco and Ms. Ghiorse will invite Ms. Adams to the meeting of the Sustainability Committee scheduled for February 4th. Ms. Cocco and Ms. Ghiorse to discuss with Ms. Adams options for connecting with stakeholders, such as a letter of introduction and/or a survey of impressions of equity and priorities.**
4. **Status Updates:** Written reports were submitted in advance of the meeting. (Note: copies attached here). The Committee discussed some questions on the status updates, including:
 - a. **Grant Opportunities.** The Committee discussed whether there was a more unified way to flag possible grant opportunities in the environmental area.
 - b. **Pollinator Pathways.** The Committee discusses a proposed resolution offered by the Land & Water sector. **Next steps:** Ms. Oberlander and Ms. Moch will meet to discuss the proposed resolution.
 - c. **Food Policy Council.** Ms. Ghiorse reported on her proposal to create a Food Policy Council, including her conversation with Margaret Goldberg, Executive Director, Neighbor-to-Neighbor.
 - d. **Legislative:** Ms. Dempsey provided an update on some issues that may come up during this legislative session. The Committee discussed how to better marshal advocacy support for issues.

- e. **Sustainability Plan:** Ms. DesChamps reported on the work to date and will be reaching out to sector chairs to focus on a common language and presentation.
- f. **Outreach Efforts.** The Committee discussed possible ways to improve outreach. Ms. Coccaro will share the article for Greenwich Neighbors and the recent Greenwich Time article on the Committee will be added to the website. **Next Steps: (1) Ms. Coccaro to distribute the article prepared for Greenwich Neighbors; (2) Ms. Oberlander and Ms. Coccaro to work together to upload recent publicity to the website.**

5. New Business

- a. **Outreach to Realtors.** The Committee agreed that a flyer on the work of the Sustainability Committee that could be provided to new home buyers would be a good idea. The Committee also discussed having a webinar with realtors to talk about some of the work that is going on.
- b. **Discussion of 2021 Priorities:** this discussion was put off due to time constraints
- c. **Scheduling Regular Meeting times.** The Committee agreed to meet on the first Thursday of every month from 11 am to 12:30 pm. If desired, the Committee also would consider scheduling a meeting on the third Thursday.

The next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, December February 4th, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary