



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Fred Camillo
First Selectman

Greenwich Sustainability Committee January 13, 2023 Via Zoom Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Janet Stone McGuigan, co-chair; Beth Evans, co-chair; Patricia Adams; Margarita Alban; Francia Alvarez; Hector Arzeno, State Representative; Janine Behr Getz; Terri Browne Kutzen; Sarah Coccaro; Ashley Cole; Sally Davis; Elizabeth Dempsey; Cheryl Denson; Julie DesChamps; Jessica E; Scott Kalb; Rachel Khanna, State Representative; Myra Klockenbrink; Ryan Fazio, State Senator; Susan Foster; Ali Ghiorse; Steve Meskers, State Representative; Cheryl Moss; Catarina Moura; Jill Oberlander; Stephanie O'Donnell; Rebecca Poirier; Sharon Psychojas; Peter Schweinfurth; Silvina Skverer; Joan Seguin; Svetlana Wasserman; Leslie Yager.

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 A.M by Janet Stone McGuigan.**
- 2. The December 1, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.**
 - Upon a duly motion made and seconded, the minutes from the January 13, 2023 meeting were approved.
- 3. Introducing Beth Evans, new Environmental Affairs Director and Sustainability Committee Co-Chair**
 - Bill Rutherford, chair of Conservation Commission, introduced the new director of environmental affairs, Beth Evans.
- 4. Introducing the Greenwich State Delegation: Representatives Steve Meskers, Hector Arzeno and Rachel Khanna and Senator Ryan Fazio**
 - The Connecticut state delegation introduced themselves as follows: Senator Ryan Fazio; Representative Steve Meskers; Representative Hector Arzeno; Representative Rachel Khanna.
 - Then went over the virtual room to introduce people to the delegation as follows: Svetlana Wasserman; Elizabeth Dempsey; Sarah Coccaro; Rebecca Poirier; Cheryl Denson; Francia Alvarez; Ali Ghiorse; Ashley Cole; Catarina Moura; Cheryl Moss; Janine Behr Getz; Joan Seguin; Julie Deschamps; Myra Klockenbrink; Patricia Adams; Peter Schweinfurth; Silvina Skverer; Stephanie O'Donnell; Susan Foster; Terri Browne Kutzen; Margarita Alban; Jill Oberlander; Scott Kalb; Sally Davis; Sharon P.; Jessica E.; Leslie Yager.

Moved into presentation and Slides ([linked here](#)) to highlight bills the committee is interested in as well as addressing concerns within the sector of sustainability

- Ms. Dempsey spoke about the importance of sustainability when it comes to food, trash, wetlands,

business, facts and supporting data for the representatives.

- Ms. Deschamps founder of waste free Greenwich speaks on the key bills pertaining to waste with a focus on the polystyrene bill. Further spoke about her group's key focus on Environmental justice bills, Single use plastic bills, extended producer responsibilities, and right to repair bill for electronics.
 - Ms. Behr Getz chair of BYO Greenwich spoke about Interest in an all-encompassing waste reduction bill and an apr packaging bill. With a key focus on bills being less industry focused and more waste reduction focused.
 - Questions or comments for Waste sector
 - Representative Arzeno spoke on further plastic reduction in the state of CT introduced by Senator Andre Bumengartner today that he is co-signing. Stating that it is the strongest waste reduction bill in the country.
 - *Next sector to move into is land and water*
 - Ms. Klickebrink, Ms. Seguin, Ms. Dempsey, Ms. Rudolph, and other Land/water sector members discussed a need for biodiversity increase. As well as looked towards Pesticide constraint laws with HB5071 , an increase in support for bill SB214 to increase production of EV and buying in CT, a bill banning the hand harvesting of horseshoe crabs, and HB 5070 no artificial turf usage.
 - *Next sector is the Food systems sector*
 - The Greenwich alliances related to food, waste, and farming presented by Ms. Ghiorse with a focus on the school meals for all campaign HB5209. Also bringing up a possibility for communication between food insecurity and housing insecurity such as increasing community garden programs.
 - *Movement into energy sector with the Energy Advisory Management Committee (EMAC)*
 - Mr. Schweinfurth states that Business as usual is not reducing energy consumption in Greenwich. Change PA 21-29 so it can be interpreted and enforced literally and/or adding a stretch code. Would like more stringent word to use when it comes to fossil fuels in HB 5219 (issue with the last 6 words).
 - *Movement into climate change sector*
 - Ms. Dempsey representing Jimena Fernandez as she could not attend. She asks if the state will be ready to assist with flooding concerns in Greenwich FEMA special flooded areas, about disaster planning, and spoke about how scientists are looking to expand hurricane ratings to category six.
 - Mr. Fazio, Ms. Klockenbrink, and Representative Meskers spoke further on this issue with comments on new bills, funding, and hurricane Ida. Also spoke about the idea of speaking to the insurance committee.
 - *Movement to Transportation sector*
 - Notifying the committee of Ms. Mochs absence. Points were made on HB 5044 which would allow the direct sales of EV by manufacturers in the state. Stating the Priority of 80,000lbs per cargo for trucks to carry.
 - Greenwich tree conservancy with Ms. Moss and others is asking for a state tree policy to maintain and increase tree canopy whether these forests are rural or urban with a focus on SB 122, SB 69, and HB 5106. Ms. Alvarez states that what the committee is looking for is accountability as well as a fly over map showing tree canopy loss.
 - *Ms. Stone McGuigan thanked the delegation and committee members*
- 5. New Business/Next Steps/Updates from Committee Sectors, Town Departments and Partners**
- Approval of meeting schedule for 2023 which will be placed on the town website

- January 24th is the CT LCV Day of Action in Hartford
- February speaker series and first meeting will be held on January 31st
- Ms. Deschamps and Waste Free Greenwich spoke about February 1st webinar speaking of first waste free school in CT
- A Report from the December Conservation Caboodle, advancing the Dec 2023 Climate Plan given by Ms. Coccaro

6. Old Business

- Greenwich library approached our committee about the library event being placed on pause due to the hiring of a new Director
- Both events, January 31st and February 1st, are in the newsletter
- Town operation plan of first selectman goal is to grow this committee
 - January 24th budget meeting is at 6 o'clock at town hall and will be broadcast live
- Approved a sustainability award to be given out in April
 - A nomination committee is needed

7. Adjourned at 12:45pm

Next Meeting: February 2, 2023, 11:00 A.M. by Zoom

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