



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Fred Camillo
First Selectman

Greenwich Sustainability Committee June 1, 2023 Via Zoom Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Beth Evans, co-chair; Janet Stone McGuigan, co-chair; Patricia Adams; Margarita Alban; Danielle Blaine; Whinn Brinioli; Fred Camillo; Sara Coccaro; Ashley Cole; Ching Darminio; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Susan Foster; Kim Gregory; Myra Klockenbrink; Tracy Kuliowski; Patrick LaRow; Snehal Mhatre; Aleksandra Moch; Catarina Moura; Lauren Mullen; Stephanie O'Donnell; Jim Pavonetti; Jeff Robertson; Susan Rudolf; Joan Seguin; Urling Searle; Joan Seguin; 2 Highschool interns

- 1. Call to Order at 11:09AM**
- 2. Approval of May 4, 2023 meeting minutes**
- 3. SCOTUS decision regarding wetlands**

Beth Evans to lead discussion on SCOTUS decision.

- a. How did we get here?
 - i. The Clean Water Act was enacted to protect the nations waters from pollutants running rampant in late 60's and early 70's due to clean up needs such as dredging, oil clean up, etc. Congress added wetlands to waters protected as a way to lessen sediment runoff. Wetlands are a great filtration system for our waterways. There are two groups that are in charge of enforcing these Clean Water Act regulations: the EPA and US Army Core of Engineers.
 - ii. Wetlands are defined by 3 parameters: Water, vegetation, and soils
 - iii. It was never made clear where federal jurisdiction ended, and state/municipal jurisdiction started
 - iv. Came to the decision that it was a "significant nexus determination" which means that to work in many wetlands a person needs to get a request from the Army Core of Engineers to work in these areas
 - v. In CT municipalities tend to have more stringent restrictions, so the third level of determination through the federal government tends to cause a lengthening of projects without changing the outcome of decisions made by the municipalities
- b. What does the decision mean for Connecticut, and Greenwich in particular?
 - i. This decision gives a clear definition to where jurisdiction ends federally
 - ii. An easy way to determine what the ruling constitutes as federally protected is to look at anything that can be seen in blue on a USGS map and the wetlands connected to it.

- iii. Perennial streams are considered navigable water.
- iv. What isn't protected federally, at least in Greenwich, is municipally protected under wetlands regulations.
- c. Is this a setback, and if so, in what way?
 - i. What isn't protected federally, at least in Greenwich is municipally protected under wetlands regulations.
- d. Is this not a setback, and if so, how is it not?
 - i. What isn't protected federally, at least in Greenwich is municipally protected under wetlands regulations.
- e. Q&A:
 - i. Ms. Dempsey introduced a question on the issue of discharging to a stream, river, or lake? As well as a follow up question on jurisdiction of supreme court.
 - 1. This should still be federally protected.
 - 2. Supreme court has previously ruled on wetlands protection in the past and most likely will in the future.

4. Updates (30 minutes)

a. Committee sectors, community partners and other Town departments as available
Legislation and Advocacy update - Ms. Dempsey: There was an in-person meeting for the May health department meeting where Quiet Yards Greenwich and the Landscapers were able to speak.

Waste Reduction Committee - Ms. Deschamps: Working on Waste reduction pilot for hair salons. Waste warrior awards to honor people and organization working towards waste reduction in the Greenwich. Net zero energy for central middle school is being pushed and promoted. The ask to the Sustainability committee would be to sign a letter promoting this to Central Middle School.

Waterfalls project – Ms. Cole: The project has a donor, but still needs help to work on fundraising for the rest of the project after a generous donation for planning.

Transportation Task Force – Ms. Moch speaking on “Bike Bus” at riverside school and hope to increase use and awareness of this. DPW gave good news on working on signs on pavement to show that lanes are being shared by bicycles. On May 22nd the Governor came to Binney Park because Stamford and Greenwich applied for a recreational/multi-use path connecting Binney park to Stamford. The first fully electric car has been added to the Greenwich Fleet.

5. New Business/Next Steps (30 minutes)

- a. Vote to endorse June 21 10:30 am C-Change speaker event at Second Congregational Church

A vote was taken to endorse this partnership.

- b. Ms. Ghiorse spoke about C-Change talks with Coffee for Good and why it is a good opportunity to support and publicize the speaker series. C-Change is a presentation put together to create a basic non-partisan primer that speaks about climate change.
- c. July/August/September meetings
 - i. July 6th - informal meeting in person at the Innis Arden cottage
 - ii. Cancel August
 - iii. September will be moved to September 13th

- d. The year in review!
- e. Events:
 - i. June 4th First Sunday science at [Seaside center](#) put on by the [Shellfish Commission](#)
 - ii. June 7th [Invasive Species](#) Removal at North Street School
 - iii. [Horseshoe Crab](#) dates all events held at Greenwich Point near the Yacht Club
 - 1. Main Event on June 17th
 - 2. Other dates on circulating flyer
 - iv. June 7th [Lights Out Presentation](#) at Perrot
 - v. June 8th Student Voices on Sustainability Event with presenters from [Science Fair Winners](#) on Zoom
 - vi. June 10th & 11th [Bruce Museum Block Party](#) where Pollinator Pathways & other groups will have a table
 - vii. June 21st [C-Change event](#)
 - viii. June 24th [Composting Workshop](#) through Waste Free Greenwich
 - ix. June 25th Save the Sound event
 - x. July 2nd [Purple Martin](#) event with [Friends of Greenwich Point](#)
 - xi. 10:30 AM near the Clam Bake area
 - xii. [Summer farmers Market](#)

Email Lauren Mullen with events

6. Adjourn at 12:18pm

Next Meeting: July 6, 2023, 11:00 A.M. at the Innis Arden Cottage

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"The Town of Greenwich is Dedicated to Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity"