MINUTES - APPROVED

Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING

June 3, 2021

Attendance: Committee members: Jill Oberlander, Co-Chair; Pat Sesto, Co-Chair; Sarah Coccaro; Karyn Calcano; [Ashley Cole]; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Myra Klockenbrink; JoAnn Messina; Aleksandra Moch; Eli Schaffer; Silvina Skverer; Svetlana Wasserman, Ani Widham. Other: Margarita Alban, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission; Joan Seguin, community member.

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

2. Minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved.

3. State of Sustainability Report. Ms. DesChamps introduced the report that was presented at the May 2021 meeting and provided background on the introduction document. Several members provided some additional comments on the report to clarify that the report is a composite of work occurring throughout the Town by various community partners. Other members confirmed that the documentation of sustainability efforts throughout the Town would be valuable to interested residents and businesses. The Committee agreed to review the draft document in its entirety and to remit any specific language change requests by close of business on June 14th. Next steps: any additional comments on the State of Sustainability, including the introduction, should be sent to Ms. DesChamps, Ms. Searle and Ms. Oberlander by June 14th. Index of community partners to be compiled.

4. Sustainable CT – Progress Updates. Ms. Coccaro updated the Committee on Greenwich’s effort to recertify as a sustainable community under Sustainable CT. She will be contacting individual sector chairs to ask for a status update on their efforts. Next steps: Ms. Coccaro asked that all submissions be made by July 23rd to ensure adequate time to compile the application.

5. Sector Updates. Reference is made to the written sector updates provided with the agenda for the meeting. Ms. Klockenbrink provided an update on the Pollinator Pathway mural effort, noting that work was halted by the First Selectman pending further approvals. Committee members reiterated their endorsement of the project and requested that the project be added to an upcoming Board of Selectmen agenda. Next steps: Ms. Calcno will work with Ms. Klockenbrink to draft a letter acknowledging Committee support for the Pollinator Pathway mural; Ms. Oberlander will endeavor to add consideration of the mural project to the agenda for an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting.

6. Review GSC Committee List and Statement of Purpose. Postponed until next meeting.

   - Margarita Alban, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission, updated the Committee on the status of a recent state zoning bill that also included a number of environmental
provisions. Chair Alban noted that the Sustainability Committee may consider advising Planning & Zoning on appropriate regulations subject to this new piece of legislation. **Next steps:** Chair Alban to forward a copy of the referenced legislation.

- Committee Members reported on **Upcoming Events / Projects**, as follows:
  
  - Audubon sponsored bird walk on June 4th
  - Ongoing removal of invasive species, please email Myra Klockenbrink at sustaingreenwich@gmail.com if interested in helping out.
  - Waste Free Greenwich and Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board will be launching a Waste Wizard Search Engine tool to help residents dispose of waste.
  - A second food scraps collection site has been added at the Old Greenwich Farmer’s Market on Wednesdays, and June 15th represents the one-year anniversary of the start of the program.
  - International Pollinator Pathway week is June 21-27, and there will be tours of the native gardens offered on June 26th and 27th. Plantings continue at North Street and Cos Cob Library. Please contact Aleksandra Moch for more information.
  - Audubon Greenwich is starting on its camp program with 30 spots each week for 6 weeks. Scholarships may be available.

- Ms. Skverer raised the need for a calendar of events so that interested residents and businesses know where to look for sustainable happenings. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

- Ms. Skverer also suggested that the Committee redo its splash page on the Town website and add language on the Committee’s purpose. She agreed to work with Ms. Calcano on this language.

- Ms. Oberlander raised whether there could be a partnership established between Greenwich Audubon and mental health professionals to support nature immersion as part of a treatment plan. Ms. Oberlander will follow up to develop this concept further.

The next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm. The Department of Public Works was invited to present at this meeting. Committee members were asked to relay their interest in summer meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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Jill K. Oberlander  
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary