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 June 3, 2021 meeting were approved.

3. **Department of Public Works Sustainability Update.** Commissioner Siebert and Deputy Commissioner Michel presented on sustainability efforts underway throughout the department, including: water treatment plant right-sizing of equipment; Holly Hill food scrap recycling; Highways’ pavement management options; Building Construction & Management conversion to LED lighting; BC&M installation of electric vehicle charging stations; and improvement of bicycle signage throughout town. Committee members asked questions about the following topics:

   - **Town response to “hot zones” and climate change:** Chair Alban identified the draft landscape regulations, and she and Commissioner Siebert discussed the planting efforts along roadways that would help.
   - **Re-use of “grey water”:** Commissioner Siebert recommended increased education about conservation as Greenwich and CT are not yet in the same dire circumstances as other water-restricted areas. She is concerned about the unintended consequences of water-reuse with potential soil contamination. Chair Alban explained that the State of Connecticut does not allow for the reuse of grey water and that there was an unsuccessful effort to address water quality and conservation through recently introduced zoning legislation.
   - **Residential waste-water:** Commissioner Siebert advised that this area is covered by other departments, including Conservation and the Department of Health. Ms. Dempsey asked about a septic awareness campaign and Commissioner Siebert agreed that more education of residents would be useful.
   - **Anaerobic Digester for Food Waste:** Commissioner Siebert responded that they had considered one possible model, but that there are concerns about capital and siting (odor), as well as limited staffing at Holly Hill.
   - **Residential Solar installations and incentives:** Commissioner Siebert advised that building inspectors are seeing more installations in new construction and Chair Alban advised that there are no zoning restrictions on installation. Isabelle Harper added that
there are a number of state and other programs that offer incentives for residential solar installations, with the Town confirming that there are no Town-initiated incentives. **Next Step:** the Committee asked Ms. Harper to provide details of the incentive programs she was aware of.

- **Status of Holly Hill Master Plan:** Commissioner Siebert advised that some portions of the Master Plan have been advanced each budget year and that the projects have been removed either by the First Selectman or the BET. The Department’s sustainability efforts could be increased with the funding of the master plan which would allow for better site and waste management, including separation of commercial and residential waste disposal as well as increased recycling/re-use options. Ms. DesChamps suggested a visit to the Stamford Recycling Center as an example of what could be done. Ms. Ghiorse advised that the First Selectman’s Waste Management Committee might have some input on the value of the Holly Hill Master Plan. **Next steps:** Jill Oberlander to reach out to Waste Management Co-chairs Basham and Moss to learn more about that Committee’s view on the Holly Hill Master Plan.

4. **State of Sustainability Report.** Ms. Searle and Ms. DesChamps updated the Committee on the changes made to the Report in response to Committee member comments, including better identification of community efforts and committee goals. The Committee recognized that the Report is intended to be a working document, which can be modified and updated in accordance with its bi-annual review. The Report will provide residents with a composite of the sustainable work being done throughout the community, along with a list of partner organizations working on these projects. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the report and introduction, while also asking each Sector Chair to review the action words in their respective goal sections. **Next steps:** Karyn Calcano will work with Ms. Searle and Ms. DesChamps to develop a press release announcing the report, along with an explanation of the process used to develop it.

5. **Sustainable CT – Progress Updates.** Ms. Sesto and Ms. Coccaro asked that all submissions for the Sustainable CT certification process be made by July 23rd to ensure adequate time to compile the application.

6. **Sector Updates.** Ms. Dempsey updated the Committee on the legislative and advocacy accomplishments during the 2021 State legislative session, including: adoption of a bottle bill that increases the deposit rate and expands the definition of covered material; and adoption of a bill addressing PFAS. Progress was made on a bill that would have further limited use of styrofoam, plastic straws, balloons and enhanced compostable bags, with the expectation that the bill would be re-introduced in the next session. The Committee agreed to pose questions to the candidates nominated to fill the vacant seat in the 36th State Senate. **Next steps:** Committee members to submit suggested questions to Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Wasserman, who will identify and develop a proposed list of questions for the candidates.

7. **Review GSC Committee List and Statement of Purpose.** Ms. Oberlander advised that a revised committee list was posted on the website and asked members to review and provide any comment. Ms. Skverer asked about adding a “statement of Committee purpose” to the website and offered to circulate proposed language. **Next steps:** Ms. Skverer will distribute her proposed language to Committee members for their consideration.
8. **New Business / Next Steps.**

- Ms. Skverer explained her idea of developing a business sector under the Sustainability Committee with the option of holding a roundtable discussion or granting a “seal of approval” to qualified sustainable businesses. Committee members asked for a more descriptive explanation, and Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Klockenbrink offered their help in developing the proposal. **Next steps:** Ms. Skverer to work with Ms. DesChamps and Klockenbrink to develop a proposal for a business sector and then to distribute the proposal to the Committee for consideration.

- Isabelle Harper, Co-Chair of the GHS Environmental Advocacy Group introduced herself to the Committee and advised on some of the things she has been working on, including an education event on the need to adopt an emergency climate resolution.

- Calendar of Events: held over and to be discussed at a future meeting.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

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Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary