FINAL MINUTES
Sustainability and Enhancement Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING
August 20, 2020

Attendance: Jill Oberlander, Committee Chair; Patricia Sesto, Committee Co-Chair; Margarita Alban, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission; Ashley Cole; Katie DeLuca, Town Planner; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Barbara Heins; James Hoffman; Myra Klockenbrink; JoAnn Messina; Aleksandra Moch; Cheryl Moss; Lauren Rabin; Svetlana Wasserman.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. **Minutes.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the May 28, 2020 and June 18, 2020 meetings were approved (Heins, Messina, Rabin abstaining).

3. **Status Updates.** Committee members provided updates on the sector activities as follows:

   a. **Food Sustainability:** Ms. Oberlander updated the Committee with a report prepared by Ms. Ghiorse. Ms. Ghiorse has connected with Sustainable CT leadership on methods to cultivate an equitable food system and is working on a white paper on developing a resilient Connecticut foodshed. Ms. Ghiorse is also working to bridge the gap between Southern Fairfield County and the rest of the state when it comes to farming and food culture.

   b. **Waste Diversion / Reduction:** Ms. DesChamps updated the Committee on the food-scrap recycling program: kit sales are increasing (approximately 300 kits sold), approximately 1 ton of food scraps are being collected each week; and all 10 toters are being filled twice each week.

      Ms. DesChamps advised that the textile recycling bins have been installed at Holly Hill; adjacent to the Cos Cob Library; at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center; at Arch Street and at The Nathaniel Witherell. Another bin will be installed at Town Hall once the garage construction is completed. This sector is now expanding work on cork collection in connection with local wine stores and tennis ball recycling.

      Waste Free Greenwich has been in communication with the Greenwich Public Schools to encourage reusable wares for brought- from-home lunches. Pat Sesto and Ms. DesChamps will work on a letter to the editor commending this effort.

      **Next steps:** (1) distribute and approve a letter to the editor on reusable lunchware; (2) follow-up on a Town Hall waste reduction plans.

   c. **Transportation.** Ms. Moch reported on several meetings of the Transportation Sector subgroup. In response to a discussion at the last Sustainability Committee, the Transportation Sector worked with the Department of Public Works to locate 12 “no-idling”
signs. These will be installed in locations across town. This group is also working to encourage regulations that will support electric vehicle charging stations throughout town and has developed criteria to rank proposed EV stations.

There was discussion on installed bicycle racks and obtaining racks for the affordable housing facilities. The group is working on a “bicycle safety” day to be held for elementary school age children on September 12th, 1 pm to 4 pm.

Ms. Oberlander reported on a subgroup discussion on legal concerns pertaining to the Town’s promotion of cycling on public roadways. The Town incurs no additional liability in doing this.

d. **Enhancement**: See discussion of POCD Greenscape Committee below.

e. **Water and Land Use**: Ms. Klockenbrink and Ms. Dempsey reported they are working on how to leverage the impact of the group through more publicly available and coordinated information, and electronic mailing lists.

Ms. Dempsey raised the concern about water usage and whether the Town could work with local golf courses to reduce water use. Ms. Oberlander asked Ms. DeLuca to look at whether it would be effective to have building regulations require rainwater collection devices on new build developments.

f. **Energy**: Ms. Oberlander advised that she and Mr. Hoffman will be reaching out to the Greenwich Public Schools to initiate a discussion about energy policy. There have been several inquiries made of the Town on how to move forward. Ms. Sesto advised that the Energy Commission proposal will not be on the RTM Agenda in September and is looking for support and endorsement by this Committee and the Board of Selectmen for this proposal.

g. **Legislative**: Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Wasserman advised that this sector will pick-up once the state legislature is back in session.

4. **Presentation – Post Road Enhancement Project – Margarita Alban, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission; Katie DeLuca, Town Planner.** Ms. DeLuca explained the work of the POCD Greenscape Committee, including their proposal to enhance areas along the Post Road throughout the town. The Committee is working initially with the area at the top of Indian Field Road and has requested an encroachment permit from the State of Connecticut. There are some outstanding legal issues, including responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

The Greenscape Committee is concerned with equity throughout town and is looking for ways to receive donations. As a 501(c)3, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy can accept donations to purchase trees and has been helping in that way.

Ms. DeLuca also advised that on September 9th, Planning & Zoning would be having a public hearing on a zoning text amendment that would work towards establishing a significant naturalized buffer adjacent to the waterfront. They are also starting to work on programs to support development of affordable housing. Ms. Cole volunteered to report on this effort.
5. **Next Steps**

a. Ms. Klockenbrink shared some options for a logo. The Committee unanimously supported version A, with requests for some revisions to color and word configuration.

b. Outreach to Conservation Commission: Ms. Sesto suggested that the Committee should aim to make a presentation to the Conservation Commission at its October meeting.

c. Town buildings and energy efficiency: as raised by Ms. Messina, to be discussed as part of an energy plan.

d. Letter to the State regarding replacing MIRA and Zero Waste goals: Ms. Sesto will circulate the letter to the Committee for review. Ms. Sesto would like the committee, if not the Town to sign on to the letter.

e. **Tipping Fees:** Ms. Oberlander will ask First Selectman Camillo for an update on the Committee.

f. **Website:** Ms. Rabin offered to help the Committee interface with IT.

g. **Holdover from last meeting:** The Committee agreed that racial justice and equity all need to be part of this Committee’s purpose. The Committee will work on expanding representation and agreed to put a discussion on environmental justice on the agenda for the next meeting.

h. Next meeting: September 17, 2020 at 11 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

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Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secret