FINAL MINUTES

Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING

November 19, 2020

Attendance: Jill Oberlander, Committee Chair; Pat Sesto, Committee Co-Chair; Sarah Coccaro; Ashley Cole; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Ali Ghiorse; Myra Klockenbrink; Aleksandra Moch; Cheryl Moss, Urling Searle and Svetlana Wasserman.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

2. **Minutes.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the October 29, 2020 meetings were approved as amended.

3. **Sustainable CT Project Support.** The Committee endorsed the framework proposed by Ms. Sesto for support for the Conservation Commission’s Sustainable CT application with the recognition that the Committee’s purpose is to gather information on what is happening in the larger community, identify gaps, and support existing departments. Ms. Coccaro and Ms. Moch will reach out to sector chairs to discuss Sustainable CT projects. Members agreed to transmit information to Ms. Coccaro and Ms. Moch on work already in progress and also to help identify groups that might take on projects that are desired but not yet initiated. As a third tier, the Sustainability Committee may be asked to consider taking on a specific project if it is highly desired and not otherwise accounted for in the community. **Next Steps:** (1) Ms. Coccaro and Ms. Moch will distribute Sustainable CT project lists to sector chairs and will schedule individual meetings to review; (2) Ms. Ghiorse will distribute the New Milford, CT project deck as an example.

   a. **Discussion of Equity Statement.** Ms. Coccaro explained that Sustainable CT has added a new project on equity and the Town of Greenwich has the opportunity to be one of the first communities to adopt a statement on equity. Ms. Ghiorse noted that it would be preferable to obtain broader community participation on the question of equity before a statement is crafted. The Committee brainstormed ideas on how to generate community input on equity issues, including holding a community forum with other interested organizations. Organizations that may be interested were identified as: the Greenwich United Way, Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich, YWCA of Greenwich, Family Centers, Greenwich Communities, First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee, and the League of Women Voters Greenwich. **Next Steps:** Ms. Oberlander and Ms. Ghiorse will develop a plan to connect with identified groups and others to determine interest in a community forum.

   b. **Equity Coach.** As part of the discussion on developing an equity statement, Ms. Ghiorse offered to contact Sustainable CT to learn more about opportunities to bring in an equity coach to support the Committee’s outreach efforts. **Next Steps:** Ms. Ghiorse to contact Sustainable CT.
4. **Outreach Efforts.** The Committee discussed the need for a more coordinated public relations effort and agreed that any statement that purports to be from the Sustainability Committee be first reviewed and approved by the Committee. The Committee recognized the value of branding, including the reference to the Committee as the Greenwich Sustainability Committee and not other labels. Ms. Dempsey updated all on the development of a contact list. Ms. Coccaro is preparing an article discussing the Sustainability Committee for publication in Greenwich Neighbors. She will share a draft with the Committee before publishing it. The Committee discussed the merits and how best to reach out to Greenwich schools on Sustainability initiatives and the work of the Committee. **Next Steps:** (1) **Ms. Coccaro to distribute a draft of the article for Greenwich Neighbors;** (2) **Ms. Dempsey to continue to build out the contact list and discuss with Ms. Oberlander options for shared information;** (3) **Ms. Oberlander to identify the existing environmental and sustainability clubs, including Earthrise, within Greenwich schools, public and private;** (4) **Ms. Oberlander to follow up with Ms. Kaether to add the logo to the Town website and to address references to the Greenwich Sustainability Committee.**

5. **Status Updates:** Written reports were submitted in advance of the meeting. (Note: copies attached here).

   a. **Committee on Tipping Fees.** Ms. Moss update the Committee on the work of the First Selectman’s Committee on Waste Management, with conversation focused on ways to improve on leaf collection, composting, and food scraps collection.

   b. **Electric Vehicle Charger.** Ms. Oberlander advised that the contract with the provider of the EV charging station had been signed.

   c. **Update on Sustainability Plan.** Ms. DesChamps advised that all sector updates were received and that a draft for review will be distributed for discussion at the next meeting. **Next Steps: Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Searle will format a distribute a first draft of a Sustainability Plan.**

6. **Update on CCSMM.** This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

7. **New Business**

   a. **Outreach to WESTCOG:** This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

8. **Next Steps:** In addition to the items referenced above:

   a. Holdover: Sustainability Committee outreach to the Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Planning & Zoning (re: POCD and Sustainability Plan).

   b. Holdover: update on Town Hall’s waste reduction plans.

   c. Next meeting: The proposed next meeting is: Thursday, December 10th, 2020 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary