



**Sustainable Weston Committee
Monday, June 12, 2023 6:30PM
At Town Hall**

MEETING MINUTES:

1. Call to order

- Meeting called at 7:40pm.
- Present: Nicci Wiese, Ben Milner, Tom Socha, Mike Aikenhead, Sarah Hutchison, Eric Shrago (called in), Andy Bill (late)
- Invited Guest - Sonia Skindrud

2. Updates by Project leaders:

- Recycling
 - TS - New partner identified to collect redeemables from Transfer Station and School. Scheduled to start in time for the new school year. Allows us to obtain 100% refund.
 - SH - Opportunity to test redeemables collection at Lachat Farmers Market. June 30th 4pm - 7pm. Planning meeting to be arranged.
 - AB - Mattress recycling at Transfer Station is up and running.
- Organics
 - NW - Meeting scheduled July 5th with new DPW Director Larry Roberts and HRRRA's Jennifer Heaton-Jones to review the way forward on the ARPA funded organics collection station.
 - FYI - September outreach: Sunday 17th Lachat Talk with Alice Ely - "how to compost at home"
 - NW - September outreach: Wednesday 27th - 7pm SW Living in the Country Talk - "Food Waste Crisis/Organics Recycling"
- Town Procurement - Selectwoman Jenner not present.
- Water Stewardship
 - BM - Waiting on meeting with water committee
 - BM - Review SWAP targets regarding river health for inclusion in the town Action Plan
 - BM - Starting a Weston Rivershed Association with a charter, website, modeled on the Norwalk River Resource Association
- Renewable Energy

- September outreach - date TBC - SW Living in the Country Talk - Renewable energy sources
- TS - Electric Generation rates scheduled to reduce in July
- Zero Waste Schools
 - MA - Composting on hold until 23/24 school year
 - MA - Establish SWAP task force partnership / Zero Waste School Committee
 - MA - Track next Zero Waste Schools meetings and encourage committee to attend
- Land Stewardship
 - SH - Garden Tour June 24th
 - SH - 3 Invasive workshops at Lachat with the Interns in May / June. More to be organized in Fall
 - SH - Applied for another grant for riparian restoration - if awarded - plan to use it to buy native plant material
- Social Media/Website/THH
 - NW THH - Update on SWAP by end June/early July
 - SW Facebook - Posts planned:
 - Farmers Market Push
 - Congrats to the Sustainable Living Seniors - MA to forward information
 - Call out for case studies on families who have completed a renewable energy project - ES to forward information
 - Mattress Recycling - AB to forward information
 - Living in the Country series - based on LTF announcements
- Outreach Education Look Ahead:
 - SH - June Farmer's Market. NW can assist.
 - All - Living in the Country Series at Lachat:
 - NW - 26 September 7PM Organics Program (Food Scrap Recycling) - with Lachat and HRRA
 - ES - October - Solar Renewable Energy - with CT Green Bank
 - ES - February - Air Heat Pumps - with local case studies
 - SH - March - Green Yard Care - with Aspetuck Land Trust / Mow Green? AGZA? Cary Institute regarding ticks?
 - BM - April - River talk - with NRWA / Weston Water Committee
 - AJ - December / January - Weston Wildlife Conversation - with Wildlife in Crisis
 - TBD – To accompany each talk: Winter Film Showings - with Weston Arts? Or Virtual Film Festival?
 - TBD - Political Candidate Discussion on Sustainability - with LWV

3. Sustainability Action Plan

- Update - LiveGreenCT working with the Municipal Leads to draft visions statements. Organics, Recycling and Renewable Energy on hold until can meet with new hires - Lee Palmer, Interim Town Administrator and Larry

Roberts, new DPW Director. Zero Waste Schools also on hold as Municipal lead has asked to postpone till September.

- Next Steps - Next step is for LGCT to moderate taskforce meeting to set annual goals and milestones. NW/SH Follow up with neighbors who indicated that they would like to be involved in the process / town sustainability.

4. Sustainable CT - No Update

5. Administration and Organization

- Minutes rotation schedule until identify a Committee Secretary
- Chair handover - Nicci Wiese to step down as Chair in July, will remain a committee member with a focus on the ARPA projects - Organics and Sustainable Action Plan. Eric Schrago to step in as chair starting in August, for the rest of 2023. Motion passed unanimously
- Next Committee Meeting - END OF AUGUST 2023 - to be determined by ES

Meeting Adjourned 9.30PM