

Weston Sustainability Committee

Minutes to Monthly Meeting January 15, 2020 (Draft)

Weston Town Hall Commission Room

Attendees:

Kirby Brendsel	Member
Marc de Mul	Secretary
Tiffany Green	Alternate Member
Amy Kalafa	Chair
Andy Millard	Weston resident
Beth Scarborough	Weston resident
Eric Shrago	Treasurer
Sonia Skindrud	Member
Tom Socha	Member

Not attending:

Sarah Hutchison	Alternate Member
Kelvin Green	Student Member
Collin Socha	Student Member
Bonnie Troy	Co-chair

Meeting called to order at 7:49 PM.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

1. Recycling update. The new 5¢ bottle recycling receptacles at the Weston Transfer Station are very popular. There may be additional receptacles installed in Town Center, provided they can be clearly labeled so that they don't collect garbage.

Andy Millard asked if polyethylene (PE) pool covers are recyclable in the plastic film receptacles at Stop & Shop and Caraluzzi's. It is not clear what is acceptable in those receptacles. The committee felt that the PE pool cover should be possible to recycle in the plastic film recycling bins as it is a plastic film similar to bubble wrap and there are no restrictions posted on the bins.

2. Priorities for 2020.
 - a. Air quality improvement: electric school buses and lawn care. The Board of Education (BOE) has been unresponsive on this topic. Workshop coming up on financing of electric school buses, date TBD. A newspaper article stated that Weston is to receive new, more energy efficient but still diesel fueled school

buses with money from the Volkswagen settlement fund, but the committee is unaware of this. Sonia will continue approaching the BOE to establish a communication link.

Sonia will bring up electric lawn care in the school sustainability committee. Marc will do research into what equipment is available that the town and the schools can use and what the cost would be.

- b. The committee does not want to pursue a Styrofoam ban as an ordinance, because it is seen as a negative approach. Educational efforts are better.
 - c. The Westport Library is interested in having a sustainability-themed lecture. Available dates are 3/31 or 4/2.
 - d. Lecture on pesticide use could be held at Lachat.
 - e. Sonia has tested her well water. The committee thinks that information on how and what to test should be on our website.
 - f. Eric will confirm how much time we can wait before pursuing additional certification with Sustainable CT so that our existing Bronze certification does not expire. We are not sure if we want to pursue Silver certification this year.
3. For the next meeting, everyone will look at the Town commissions on the website and come up with people to invite to our meeting. Everyone will also come up with a list of target activities for this year.
 4. The discussion on nominations for officers was postponed to the next meeting.
 5. Other business: no other business

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM. The next meeting will be on February 19, 2020 at 7:45 PM.