

Weston Sustainability Committee

Minutes to Monthly Meeting June 10, 2020

Google Meets

Attendees:

Marc de Mul	Secretary
Sarah Hutchison	Member
Amy Kalafa	Chair
Sonia Skindrud	Co-chair
Alissa Stoltz	Alternate Member
Eric Shrago	Member
Kirby Brendsel	Member
Tom Socha	Member

Not attending:

Kelvin Green	Student Member
Tiffany Green	Alternate Member
Collin Socha	Student Member

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM.

The minutes of the previous meeting on May 12, 2020 were approved.

1. Equity in Sustainability <https://icma.org/documents/equity-sustainability>

The committee agrees that social justice should be part of our charter, along with the rest of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#). Eric has met with Thomas Easley, Assistant Dean of Community and Inclusion at Yale, who may be a future speaker in Weston. We are not sure what other town committees are concerned about social justice, diversity, and inclusion issues.

2. POCD Update
3. BYO Bag Ordinance Update

Bringing reusable bags to any grocery store, including Caraluzzi's and Peter's, is allowed under the state ordinance.

4. Initiative Updates
 - a. Electric School Buses/Sustainable Fairfield County

Sonia finished the 6-week training program. 25 towns in CT are exploring school transportation electrification. Weston may have the opportunity to benefit from the next round of VW settlement funding. Because we do not own our buses but contract with a service provider, we would need to work together with a variety of parties to pursue grant funding. The town of Weston may relocate its bus depot which presents a good opportunity to prepare, plan and design for the transition to electric.

b. Leaf Blower Bans (event opportunity)

Sustainable Fairfield County will probably not take up this issue. In Weston there is no noise ordinance, so it is more difficult to connect the leaf blower ban to an existing ordinance.

c. Waste Management: HRRRA/zero food waste/composting (event opportunity)

The BoS is planning to change ordinances to allow Weston to become part of the [Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority](#) (HRRRA) at its meeting on June 16.

d. Bottle Redemption/New Student Committee Members

Over 35,000 bottles have been sorted to date. The proceeds will be donated to local organizations that serve the hungry and poor. Tom needs volunteers to help with sorting. There are 2 co-presidents of the HS green team who are seniors; there are younger kids interested in becoming student members of the committee.

e. Walkability Audit

f. Pollinator Pathway/Community Match Fund

June is pollinator month; Louise Washer will speak on 2 topics – importance of not using pesticides and how to welcome the voices of nature in your garden. Raised close to \$8,000 which will be used to plant native plants in various locations.

5. Communications/Outreach Update: New website, new email addresses, virtual programming strategy

A new website is being developed. We may set up Zoom meetings as educational programming.

6. New Business: Posting draft minutes

We agree on a time period after each meeting where committee members can review the draft minutes before they are posted ahead of the next meeting.

7. July meeting date and time

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM. The next meeting will be on July 8, 2020 at 7:45 PM.