

1 WESTON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
2 MINUTES  
3 THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 2018  
4 7:30 P.M.

5  
6 WESTON TOWN HALL  
7 DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM

8 *Official actions of the commission in these minutes are indicated by underlining.*  
9

10 The Weston Sustainability Committee held its monthly meeting on Thursday August 9,  
11 2018 at Weston Town Hall. Committee Members present: Kirby Brendsel, Jens Buettner,  
12 Ken Coulson, Amy Kalafa, Marc de Mul, and Bonnie Troy. Also present were the High  
13 School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha, and representing general public were  
14 Larry Shore and Tom Socha. Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz joined during  
15 the latter part of the meeting. Chair de Mul called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

16 1) There was a motion from Chair de Mul to approve the minutes of the meeting on July  
17 2018 meeting that was seconded by Committee Member Troy. Motion was approved.  
18 For: 5 / Against: 0.

19 2) Notice that there is a Sustainability Committee Member position open. Tom Socha  
20 has applied and his application will be reviewed at the next meeting.

21 3) Updates relating to Bag Ban and Fracking Waste

22 a) There are some revisions to the language in the documents on the Bag Ban and  
23 Fracking that were generated from the Town Attorney and based on presentations  
24 and discussions.

25 b) Changes and updates are being made in preparation for the September 20 Weston  
26 Town Public Hearing where both items will be discussed.

27 c) To facilitate communication of these issues within the community, Weston  
28 Sustainability Committee is:

29 i) Sharing fliers are public forums (e.g., Lachat Farm – Farmer’s Market)

30 ii) Posting updates to the Weston Sustainability Committee Facebook and  
31 website(s)

32 4) Update on the Sustainable Connecticut Application from Co-Chair Kalafa

33 a) The interns from Sustainable Connecticut worked on it, and the working group  
34 had divided the sections and worked on assigned areas.

35 b) Co-Chair Kalafa had met with the Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and  
36 begun research to answer questions and complete.

37 c) Information was still pending from Weston Town Administrator that would  
38 impact completion (on items he would know or assist in follow-ups – e.g., energy  
39 consumption).

- 40 d) There was a motion from Chair de Mul that Co-Chair Kalafa should compose a  
41 letter to the Board of Selectmen that due to pending information, the Weston  
42 Sustainability Committee was not going to complete the Sustainable Connecticut  
43 Application this year, and that we will need commitment from the Board of  
44 Selectmen / Weston next year to complete. Motion was seconded by Committee  
45 Member Coulson and approved with For: 6 / Against: 0.
- 46 5) Update on Green Leaf Schools by High School Sustainability Representative Collin  
47 Socha.
- 48 a) Currently doing the self assessment and completing the application.
- 49 b) After this year, there is a possibility of striving towards the the Green Leaf  
50 Ribbon level in 2019.
- 51 c) Has met with Vice Principle and work has been underway on garnering  
52 Principal's sign-off on ability to complete (and is continuing to work towards  
53 getting the plan into discussions with Principal and Vice Principal).
- 54 d) Really working currently to raise awareness, educate, and get additional members  
55 in the Green Leaf Club.
- 56 e) In considering priorities, may address water bottles first. As such, research is  
57 currently underway on getting a water dispenser installed in the Weston High  
58 School.
- 59 f) Additionally, for a new take and help with a call to action, there is consideration  
60 of new programs, like decorating your recycling bin.
- 61 g) In support of the Bag initiative, there is still a need for a possible re-usable bag  
62 design from the Weston High School. Tom Socha volunteered to contact the  
63 Weston High School Art Teacher to raise this as a possibility of having it as a  
64 program or contest (with some parameters, such as having it branded under  
65 Sustainable Weston).
- 66 6) Herbicide Spraying Update from Co-Chair Kalafa and Committee Member Troy.
- 67 a) Understanding is that herbicide spraying is done more from a maintenance  
68 perspective so that they do not have to mow or more manually clear the brush.
- 69 b) Currently seeing the State's spraying, but towns can do spraying.
- 70 c) Co-Chair Kalafa shared update concerning a local acquaintance with a house  
71 along Georgetown Road who had spraying near their home by the Department of  
72 Transportation (DOT), and was worried about it going onto their property. After  
73 follow-ups with DOT, only received an email back in response.
- 74 d) Committee Member Troy has done research on herbicides and placed into the  
75 google document which she shared for the entire Weston Sustainability  
76 Committee to be able to review.
- 77 e) Committee Member Troy has spoken with Jeff Cordala from the Northeast  
78 Organic Farming Association (NOFA) who had some ideas with which we could

- 79 get involved (e.g., we could get on a Board to try to impact State Government at  
80 Legislative level).
- 81 f) Possibility also exists to work within a local joint coalition to see what may be  
82 obtainable from a practical perspective.
- 83 i) E.g., Louise Walker from Norwalk River has agreed to potentially go into a  
84 coalition with the Weston Sustainability Committee on this issue. Louise (as  
85 well as a few others – e.g., Patrice and Anne) are working on town based  
86 solutions.
- 87 g) There are also several educational opportunities present:
- 88 i) Sharing with Weston residents who’s property is on State adjacent areas how  
89 to sign up for “Do Not Spray” options.
- 90 ii) Having Jeff Cordala or Louise Washer or Leslie or Sustainable Fairfield  
91 County come and do a Lachat Town Talk on the subject.
- 92 iii) Developing a one pager educational tool (similar to the Plastic Bag FAQ).
- 93 iv) Potentially recommending alternatives, such as vinegar (which has less  
94 harmful effects).
- 95 7) Communication Efforts
- 96 a) Sustainable Living Speak Series – Topics and Scheduling
- 97 i) Co-Chair Kalafa has done initial research on speakers, and asked to share  
98 opportunities to set agendas, follow-up, etc... in scheduling for the months to  
99 come. As such, the following options and alignments were proposed:
- 100 (1) Lawncare – Committee Member Troy to coordinate with Sal Gilbertie and  
101 the Backyard Beekeepers
- 102 (2) Water Care – Committee Member Buettner to coordinate with Louise  
103 Washer.
- 104 (3) Fracking Waste Ordinance – Chair de Mul to coordinate with Jen Siskind.
- 105 (4) Recycling in Weston – Co-Chair Kalafa to coordinate with Brian Pagnini  
106 and Wayne Pesci.
- 107 b) Farmers Market
- 108 i) Scheduling Volunteers - For the August 31 event, Committee Member  
109 Buettner to set up (at around 3:30 PM EST) and Co-Chair Kalafa (who could  
110 bring the tent, banner, table, etc...) and Committee Member Coulson to cover  
111 the last hour / end of session.
- 112 ii) Additionally thought was presented that Volunteers could do more walking,  
113 mixing, and engaging with attendees (as well as possibility to bring food or  
114 snacks for attendees as enticements).
- 115 c) Newsletter Option

116 i) Opportunity was discussed on if we should have a newsletter or other similar  
117 type of communication, as well as a Communications Committee. A final  
118 decision was not made to move forward on this, but the group thought we  
119 should at least send through a heads-up on the speakers and upcoming events.  
120 Committee Member Coulson to write a paragraph on each and Tom Socha to  
121 convert / annotate the list of names in digital format that has been manually  
122 captured at events to date (i.e., Lachat).

123 8) Other Items

124 a) Co-Chair Kalafa raised attention to an email she had received on possibility that  
125 new electrical power lines could be run through Weston. Co-Chair Kalafa to  
126 forward to group for review and discussion during next meeting.

127 b) Committee Member Buettner raised the question on if information on the  
128 upcoming Public Hearing on the Bag Ban could be posted to the Weston  
129 Sustainability Committee's Facebook page? Committee Member Troy to work on  
130 getting posted.

131 c) Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz addressed group with update on  
132 Public Forum

133 i) In terms of approach, you do not need to be invited to speak, you are free to  
134 just go forward and speak on topics.

135 ii) Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Jonathan Luiz volunteered that he  
136 would share the current language of Bag Ban with Peter's before the Public  
137 Forum.

138 iii) Heads-up was provided that there were also a few other potential ordinances  
139 that would be presented at the Public Forum where the Weston Sustainability  
140 Committee Members may want to opine, including the Storm Water  
141 Ordinance, which speaks to permitting requirements on Coastal States on  
142 managing storm water which has become more stringent and include more  
143 requirements for documentation, as well as ordinance language including  
144 notice on individuals illegally dispatching into catch basins (which allows the  
145 town to fine them).

146 9) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Co-Chair Kalafa and seconded by  
147 Committee Member Coulson. Motion was approved. For: 5 / Against: 0.

148 Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

149 Respectfully Submitted,

150 Kirby Brendsel, Secretary