

WESTON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 2018
7:30 P.M.

WESTON TOWN HALL ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOM

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

The Weston Sustainability Committee held its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Weston Town Hall Annex Conference Room. Committee Members present: Kirby Brendsel, Amy Kalafa, Marc de Mul, Tom Socha and Bonnie Troy. Also present were the High School Recycling Club President Kelvin Green and High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha, and representing general public were Larry Shore and Tiffany Green. Chair de Mul called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

- 1) There was a motion from Co-Chair Kalafa to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 24, 2018 that was seconded by Committee Member Socha. Motion was approved. For: 5 / Against: 0.
- 2) 2019 Weston Sustainability Committee (WSC) meeting schedule
 - a) Group discussed setting a more re-occurring schedule - e.g., second Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of every month, with an alternate of one of the same days of the week afterwards as an alternate.
- 3) WSC Additional Member(s) discussion – Co-Chair Kalafa
 - a) Evaluation and discussion of option to add additional members to the WSC.
 - b) Most likely opportunity is to have Alternates as an option who could vote if we do not have standard Committee Members present.
 - c) Co-Chair Kalafa made a motion to add two Alternates to our Committee which was seconded by Chair de Mul. Motion was approved. For: 5 / Against: 0.
 - d) Co-Chair Kalafa to follow up with First Selectman Chris Spaulding for more details and necessary next steps.
- 4) Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Ordinance Follow Up Discussion
 - a) Current status of ordinance
 - i) Chair de Mul has followed up with the Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz on this topic
 - ii) Chair de Mul and Co-Chair Kalafa have followed up with First Selectman Chris Spaulding
 - (1) There is a Board of Selectman revote going on this evening (11/08/18) on all three ordinances.

- (2) Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz is checking on publishing related notices in the Norwalk Hour, as local papers (e.g., Weston Forum) have closed.
 - (3) Chair de Mul and Co-Chair Kalafa have conveyed to First Selectman Chris Spaulding that the WSC is an active Committee and would like to move forward on this ordinance, moving towards 90 days after the official vote, having this in place.
 - (a) During discussions, First Selectman Chris Spaulding did ask if we could help with the Waste Water Ordinance, especially from a communication and education plan.
- b) Communication / Community Education Plan
- i) There is a potential opportunity to do an associated Awareness Day or other similar activity.
 - ii) Recycling Club President Kelvin Green also offered that there is an opportunity to have an article about this in the Weston High School Newspaper.
 - iii) In terms of coordination with the Weston High School, the High School is now aligned under one sustainability group, with Michael Eganhead as the teacher leader. Committee Member Tom Socha serves as the WSC representative and general liason.
 - iv) For the remainder of Weston, Larry Shore to serve as the BYOB representative and liason, and coordinate with Committee Member Tom Socha on where we can have an Awareness Day and associated school assembly.
 - v) Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha added that they were looking at potential of doing a plastic awareness week in November.
- c) Weston-branded bags designed by Weston School Children Competition
- i) Committee Member Jens Buettner had previously sent around an email / letter outlining that there were multiple options in addition to the competiution, as well as guidance on what should be incorporated.
 - ii) Update provided that there is also an opportunity to leverage funds from the First Selectman Chris Spaulding salary fund as his donation towards re-usable bag options.
 - iii) WSC would also like to incentivize the bag completion with ~ \$50 from its funds.
 - iv) Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha distributing letter with November 29 as the due date for the competition. He has also talked with the Weston High School Art Teacher and put in a push for the Morning Show and announcements to communicate.

- v) WSC discussed the option of extending it to all of the Weston schools, and group felt it should be open to all of the Weston schools (but just the schools). Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha to also reach out to other schools to communicate and provide a heads up on the Competition.
 - vi) Committee Member Tom Socha to reach out to his wife and work to communicate through the Weston Parent Teacher Organization.
 - vii) Question was asked on - is there any opportunity for Mr. Eganhead to share and further get the word out through students as well?
 - viii) Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha shared that the National Honor Society Club is also going to submit a design as part of the activities that support their Community Service value pillar.
 - ix) Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha to follow up on design questions and get updates (i.e., feedback and requirements from Committee Member Jens Buettner) included within new announcements.
 - x) Committee Member Troy to reach out to Blue Hammer to see if they could do a design for the WSC logo options.
- d) Outreach to Retailers
- i) Chair de Mul to reach out to local applicable Weston vendors when applicable based on go live date to assist in initial coordination. Larry shore to help in this effort in setting up / scheduling discussions and go with to meetings.
- 5) Fracking Waste Ordinance
- a) Current status of Ordinance
 - i) Question posed to WSC by First Selectman Chris Spaulding on if we'd be willing to wait until after the 2018 Christmas Holiday on this Ordinance so that it can get the attention it deserves?
 - (1) Co-Chair Kalafa to follow back up with First Selectman Chris Spaulding to let him know that WSC would still like to move forward, and go before the 2018 Christmas Holiday.
 - (2) WSC to prepare and ensure we are ready to support and present at the applicable public forum (where this is presented).
- 6) WSC Communication Efforts
- a) Sustainable living speaker series – topics and scheduling
 - i) Proposed Speakers – Co-Chair Kalafa and Committee Member Troy
 - (1) Land Care: Sal Gilbertie and the Backyard Beekeepers
 - (2) Water Care: Louise Washer
 - (3) Fracking Waste Ordinance: Jennifer Siskind
 - (4) Recycling in Weston: Brian Pagnini and Wayne Pesci

- (5) Plastic Awareness: January could be the month for a day aligned with plastic awareness. Potential to have Co-Chair Kalafa to inquire with Liz Milwe for education day on recycling (or perhaps Jay from City Carting). Also could be coordinated with the Weston Schools and Bag Awareness Day.
- (6) Lawn Care: maybe in the spring or just prior.
- ii) Committee Member Troy discussed with Lachat representative around who we should get together with to talk further (including option for a Thursday night activity where we offered beer and wine, or a Saturday event with multiple different booths present).
- iii) Potential approach:
 - (1) First event could be BYOB ordinance information session with Liz Milwe as part of it, and then a follow on event with Jay. If it was a Winter event, could be done within the Weston Library.
 - (2) Second event could be Lawn Care / Organics 101 / Pesticides (and Mark Harper has expressed interest in involvement with these as well).
- 7) Green Leaf Schools Update - Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha
 - a) Green Leaf Banner and Self Assessment have been approved, and the Weston High School is now technically in the program.
 - b) Weston High School Sustainability Representative Socha has been in discussion(s) with advisor to get a ceremony for the Green Leaf for the School. Ms. Diario would be there for the ceremony, and First Selectman Chris Spaulding and others would be invited as well. Presentation of the actual banner could just be a day after school. Currently working towards a potential date in early December.
 - c) At last High School Green Team meeting, they discussed a focus on just the High School at this point, with a possible transition in focus to rest of the District next year.
 - d) Next potential step / progression could be the Green Ribbon National Option, which has February 1 as the final day where they could submit.
 - e) Harder areas to look at further for the School are energy and recycling.
 - i) Recycling - have put bins in many of the rooms in the School, and are now doing more of an organized approach to recycling to trace back where items are being turned in, picked up, and actually recycled.
 - ii) Other areas to research could be transportation (e.g., bus routes and idling), as well as possibly plastic utensils and straws.
- 8) Future Business
 - a) No idling initiative
 - b) Herbicide safety

9) Other items

- a) Committee Member Brendsel shared initial information on some possibilities around a second solar opportunity and a charging initiative (the latter of which Weston High School Sustainability Representative Collin Socha and High School Recycling Club President Kelvin Green to check on further in School to see if they can find any additional information).
- b) Chair de Mul shared information on Wilton exploring a Blue Zone, with different attributes associated for wellness, and that now there are active programs to try and cultivate becoming a Blue Zone.

10) Next Meeting

- a) Current scheduling for next meeting is Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 PM EST.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Brendsel, Secretary