

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017, 7:30 PM

TOWN HALL COMMISSION ROOM

1 – Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm with the following members: Natalie Terrill, Marc de Mul, Jens Buettner, and Scott Licamele.

Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting held June 15, 2017 – Natalie moved and Marc seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2 – Discussion of Various Projects

- A. Energy Efficiency Initiative – Guests Jeffrey Mayer and Chris Whitman from Soloman Energy spoke to the committee about the 2MW virtual net-metering opportunity from a solar field in eastern Connecticut.

Natalie and Scott reviewed the opportunity of a microgrid installation that was discussed during a meeting that took place with Jonathan Luiz, Natalie Terrill, Kendra McQuilton and David Newman from ECG Engineering, PC on Wednesday, August 9.

The committee discussed the conflict between virtual net metering of off-site solar generation and a microgrid. The committee would like to further investigate on-site solar with battery-back-up and natural gas fired emergency generators.

Natalie provided an update on progress made from the conference call with Eversource on June 21st. Benchmarking of municipal utilities is underway, the residential Home Energy Solutions Energize CT campaign will begin this fall, and the Bright Ideas grant money will be used for additional lighting improvements in municipal buildings.

- B. Reusable Bags Campaign – Guest Larry Shore spoke to the committee about progress on reusable bags. A multifaceted approach including targeting local retailers, Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts, and the schools is planned.

Natalie proposed applying for a Seed Grant (up to \$1,000) through the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to assist with cost of bags and campaign. Scott will assist in application process.

Jens and Jonathan to establish next sub-committee meeting to keep momentum on initiative.

- C. Anti-Idling Campaign – Jonathan pricing signs, determining locations, ordering anti-idling flyers, and requested Patrice Gillespie from Wilton Go Green be a guest speaker at next meeting.

D. New Business

Marc will establish a Weston Sustainability website and coordinate with Natalie for consistent content for Facebook.

Natalie will collaborate with the school district to arrange participation in the United States Green Building Council's Green Apple Day of Service. Funding is available through donors to this program for initiatives.

Amy emailed a request to consider the No Fracking Waste Ban. A copy of the Town of Windsor's Ordinance and a draft of Weston's proposed ordinance was distributed for review and discussion. This issue was tabled for the next meeting since Amy was not present.

3. Adjourn – Marc moved and Scott seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 9:00 pm.