

Weston Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes 3-8-11

Attendees:

Members-Deirdre Doran, David Wilk, Ellen McCormick, Phoebe Cole-Smith, Lou Dempsey

Guests- Helen Dekeijzer, Harvey and April Bellin, Valerie Mason-Finegan

Deirdre announced that Ellen was sworn in (replacing Eileen Kaufman). Don Kendall is resigning due to work commitments.

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM.

Erin O'Neil from N2N provided an update. Looking to kick-off Weston N2N on 4/9/11. The state launch is 3/22/11 in Hartford. She asked that we sign-up as a friend via Facebook (search Weston Neighbor to Neighbor).

Discussion of GVI. WSC members would like to work with GVI. Lou, Ellen and Pheobe will coordinate between the two organizations. WSC will move their meeting to 3/29 so we can attend the Weston GVI meeting on 3/22.

Discussed the WSC goals for 2011. Three items to focus efforts: Food/Farming, Recycling and Education. The committee will focus efforts to achieve goals (identified at next meeting) in these three fields. Included in our overall efforts will be concerns about water quality on an ongoing basis.

Harvey and April discussed article from Westport/Weston Health District regarding tick spraying. David Wilk moved to cease and desist. Lou seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was moved that WSC recommends to the Westport Weston Health District that it refrains from engaging in the testing as advertised in the *Weston Forum* until

1. WWHD proves the product is not harmful to citizens and environment,
2. The Town acquires all pertinent information about the product and the service.
3. The Town brings attention to those Weston residents offered to be paid to be part of the study all the facts about what chemicals are being used and how, and

David reviewed speaker series:

3/2/11 Jared Duval at The Grange was a great success with 44 people in attendance. The event raised \$250 for the Weston Food Pantry.

4/3/11 Anna Lappe will speak at the Unitarian Church in Westport at 1:00. Local food will be sold.

5/3/11 Phoebe has three local farmers, topic TBD.

Lou reported that Don and he reviewed the discussions they had with *America Speaks* who will forward a proposal for review. The purpose is to possibly help organize a town meeting to establish consensus regarding the objectives of the Weston Sustainability Committee. *America Speaks* is referenced in Jared Duval's [Next Generation Democracy](#). Ellen McCormick suggested a town book reading of the book.

Water Quality: Helen mentioned the Water Quality Committee coordinated by WWHD. Dave Ungar and Cory Attra members. Harvey mentioned Weston Conservation had oversight of wetlands and streams/tributaries.

Phoebe discussed possible backyard garden tour featuring chickens, bees, etc. Valerie discussed recycling. She met with Weston workers at the Transfer Station. She described in detail the many things she learned about current methods used at the dump and why. She will write up her notes and distribute electronically. At the next meeting, this will be a primary topic of discussion.

Lou discussed *America Speaks* - Still in discussions for a smaller event.

Meeting adjourned 9:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Lou Dempsey
Secretary