



July 14, 2022
7-8:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ron Blumenfeld, Becky Bunnell, Daphne Dixon, Rabab Hussain, Mary Hogue, Larry Kaley, Emma Kaye, Bill Leavy, Dustin Mandre, Jim Marren, Jim Motavalli, Shawn O’Sullivan, Doug Price, Bob Wall, Joan Zimmerman

Liaisons: Misty Beyer, Meghann McKale, Quin Wolters

Guests: Dan & Dee Davitia, Alexis Harrison, Jenn Leeper, Ted Luchsinger, Ali Vanderpol, Jill Vergara

- **Meeting Minutes**

Bob Wall made a motion, Bill Leavy seconded, no comments or amendments, unanimously approved as submitted.

- **Treasurer Report**

Balance as of 7/14/2022 is \$6,253.33.

- **Liaison Reports**

- Bike-Ped: TBD

- [Dangerous by Design report for 2022](#) with [*free* webinar discussion](#) of the report taking place on Thursday, July 28

- Solid Waste & Recycling Commission: Misty Beyer

- The Solid Waste & Recycling Commission (SWRC) will be at the Farmer’s market with the following flyers - some demo items

- SWRC would like to partner with SFTF with the “Clean the Stream” and Glass Recycling

- 4 containers of glass have been picked up already - each container is between 4 and 6 tons

- [Hazardous Waste Day drop-off last weekend in August 27, 9am-2pm at Veteran’s Park, 909 Reef Road](#) - SFTF will help promote via Comm & Outreach Committee

- Would anyone like to Tour Oakridge recycling center? Our recycling contamination rate is too high!

- Fairfield Forestry Committee: Mary Hogue
 - Created Instagram account: [@pollinator_pathway_fairfield](#) - please Follow Us!
 - Sent out “Fairfield Summer Pollinator Pathway News”
 - Ted Luchsinger & Amanda Ingrassia presented on Lake Mohegan: past, present and future 7/11 at Fairfield Woods Branch Library to approximately 30 people - great interest and hope to get sign-ups for Friends of Lake Mohegan group
 - Prep for Fairfield Woods Branch Library Pollinator Garden started, hope to complete garden soon
 - Tonight, Amanda tabling at Ganim’s 11th Ladies Night fundraiser
 - Mill Hill Outdoor Classroom / Garden installed!
 - [Rockland Park](#) Pollinator Garden was cleaned up by volunteers and got a donated professional manufactured sign and was installed by a volunteer
 - [Tucker Fund 2022 Project](#) is to upgrade the Jennings Beach Entryway - please consider supporting this worthy cause!
 - Plans to install Pollinator Garden at Bigelow Senior Center in the Fall (after patio is completed)
 - Pollinator Garden Tour for Fall - 9/17 10am-3pm Oaklawn Arboretum & Ogden House, hoping to get more folks to do tours and publicity; can be other dates
 - Activist, middle schooler, [Ryan Romeo, our Local Lorax](#), along with our Fairfield Pollinator Pathway crew visited the Fairfield Public School Summer Boost program at McKinley Elementary School
 - 7/16 10am-4pm tabling at Fairfield Sidewalk Sale
 - Forestry Committee Volunteer Canvassers are usually out on **Friday and Saturday afternoons from 3-5pm** to help residents understand they have “Tree Rights” and do NOT have to agree to UI canvassers - please contact Forestry@FairfieldCT.org if you’re interested in joining us!
 - Beginning meeting with customers for Fall 2022 Tree Planting Program - have ~ 50 already!
 - Dave Beer, CT DEEP Forester, inspected Lake Mohegan with Conservation Staff, Tree Warden and Forestry Committee volunteers 7/7 - will be sending a report; plans for Fairfield Forestry Committee volunteers to do a more extensive review of the forest for Leaf Beech Disease (LBD) is expected
- Flood and Erosion Control: Becky Bunnell
 - Perrys Green Resilience project to repair the Sea wall has started and plans are being prepared for review in early September
 - Rooster River resilience plan has a slight delay while updated plans are evaluated
- Mill River Wetland Committee: Kiersten Chou

- Seeking help with watering plants at Rockland Park during the drought/heat- contact Carrie Rullo (vicepresident@mrwc-fairfield.org) if you want to help.
- Keeping tabs on P&R proposal re: Ash Creek/ amphitheater, and encouraging folks to share their opinions/concerns with the team.
- PTA Council: Meghann McKale
- MetroCOG: Quin Wolters
- **[Develop a consensus SFTF position on the Parks & Rec Master Plan](#)**
A few more edits are required. Shawn will incorporate and will send for a final vote to send by noon tomorrow.
- **[Climate Leaders](#) Update: Bob Wall, Mira Bikashi, Mary Hogue**
We need 140 and currently have 170 points so we feel confident we will obtain Climate Leader certification. We are working with our solar vendors to fill in missing and correct / explain strange data.
- **HeatSmart Campaign: Bob Wall, Mira Bikashi, Mary Hogue**
(HOLD FOR BOB)
- **[Fairfield Climate Emergency Resolution Draft](#): Mira Bakshi**
On hold for this month
- **Reports for Sub-Committees**
 - Energy & Built Environment: Bob Wall
 - Committee did not meet but progress made in three areas:
 - Solar data from third-party owners coming in from three principal parties which will allow us to update Portfolio Manager, potentially earn points for Climate Leaders and assess town savings from solar;
 - Mary, Mira and Bob met with Lynn Stoddard (Sustainable CT), Abby Finis (formerly Great Plains Institute) and Peoples Action for Clean Energy (PACE) re GHG Inventory; discussed best tool for inventory and vehicle miles traveled measurement;
 - Mary, Mira and Bob met with PACE re Heat Smart Program. They're now offering a Lite version of program that will provide a website, press release template and will partner with Abode Energy Management and I Heart My Home, free heat pump consulting and general energy concierge. We discussed a September launch in Fairfield and will need to find locations for workshops (or zoom).
 - (from Jenn Leeper) **Thu, 7/21, 110 Shoreham Terrace Open House**

The Overland Design Group creates green, energy-efficient, storm and fire-resistant homes using Insulated Concrete Forms. Leigh Overland, the chief architect, has very generously offered to host an open house of his properties. He will be opening up for a tour of both his home as well as one property still under construction on Lalley Blvd so you can really see how it's made.

- Transportation: Daphne Dixon
 - According to Chief Kalamaras, Fairfield Police Department is looking to purchase a Mustang Mach E and F150 Lighting before the end of the year.
 - Chief Kalamaras moderated a panel at a national webinar for the Police Department staff sharing EV police vehicle experiences. 30 States and almost 200 registered.
 - Fairfield School District is considering submitting an EPA Clean School Bus Rebate application. Applegreen is installing fast chargers at the truck stop at exit 21. I have a meeting with a representative from Applegreen to find out when they will complete.
 - The managers of the Bob's Stores parking lot are still considering installing level 2 chargers. Concerns are that non-customers would use it and take away parking from customers.
- Food & Waste: Becky Bunnell
 - Committee did not meet this month but the following progress has been made
 - The town has agreed to run a food waste recycling drop off program at the transfer station. Likely this will start mid to late August. SFTF would be running the outreach and awareness for this program as well as putting together and handing out 250 "starter Kits". The starter Kits would consist of a small kitchen collection pail, a roll of BPI certified compostable Bags, a 6 gallon transport pail and information about the program and what is allowed in the drop off. The first 250 people to sign up for the program get a Free kit , thereafter the kits will cost roughly \$20 each. I would welcome any help in putting these together as well as getting the word out.
 - Recycling stickers are out and most haulers have started putting them on the Blue bins. Let me know if your hauler has not put them on yet. Several schools have asked about getting stickers as well.
- Natural Environment: Mary Hogue
 - See Forestry & PTAC reports
- Equity: Emma Kaye & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - Equity event tomorrow - [Seaside Sounds for Environmental Justice](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seaside-sounds-for-environmental-justice-registrati), 2 PM Seaside Park, Bridgeport
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seaside-sounds-for-environmental-justice-registrati>

[on-322059688197?fbclid=IwAR1_7A3MWSiSFa99cd_xauCUEoxag2NOsvMQdTu8k4peBjBmfmWS_h6mHhg](https://www.facebook.com/322059688197/?fbclid=IwAR1_7A3MWSiSFa99cd_xauCUEoxag2NOsvMQdTu8k4peBjBmfmWS_h6mHhg)

- Discussion of potential equity projects:
 - Community engagement projects i.e. Solarize
 - Community solar on open lots
 - Heat pumps/efficiency upgrades for low income/elderly homeowners
- Solid waste and recycling commission to have table at Farmers Market - potential for SFTF to distribute info on Plastic Free July or other?
- Communication & Outreach: Rabab Syed
 - **Outreach:** Mary
 - Pollinator Pathway instagram is now live and latest newsletter went out this month.
 - Lake Mohegan presentation at the library was a huge hit and they're going to plant a pollinator pathway at the library.
 - Ryan Romeo had a successful presentation at McKinley.
 - Need a rep from the energy committee to start getting into the loop about our heat pump program.
 - Shop and stroll should have info or flyers on the glass recycling pilot to push the word out on that as well.
 - **SFTF Town communication Press release/Newsfeed:** Jim Marren
 - Consideration for maybe doing another Solarize program or pushing for energy audits within households in Fairfield; would like more info on our Heat Smart project.
 - Will keep this component of communication as is.
 - **Social Media:** Rabab - Plastic free July and CT rides and shop and stroll promotion and Glass recycling videos.
 - **Website:** Dustin & Ari update! If anyone wants to feature anything on the website! Local food and CSAs and farmers markets resource page is getting worked on! All with helpful links to recycling, local foods, everything, etc. Dustin will make it LIVE!
 - **E-Newsletter:**
 - July Is ready to go.
 - Thinking ahead to september newsletter edition, featuring the green teams at the different local schools in Fairfield - Mill Hill & Dwight. Green team school from 7 elementary schools - lots of combining efforts amongst the teams and taking next steps - will receive update from VP of sustainability at PTAC- Meghann McKale (Dwight)! Parent education is a huge component and that's why we need to be more aggressive at PTA meetings!

- NEED TO BRAINSTORM EXPANDING OUR REACH PER BEING INFORMED BY EQUITY
- Advocacy: Mary Hogue & Shawn O'Sullivan
 - See [Develop a consensus SFTF position on the Parks & Rec Master Plan](#)
 - [sign on to Sierra Club letter on truck regulations](#)
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**