



Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved by the Committee. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Office for a copy of final minutes.

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
September 10, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

Patti Boye-Williams
Andrea Sobinski
Betty DaCruz
Katy Perry
John Tucker

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

A. Call to Order – 6:35pm.

B. Public Comment

Sia Goel – resident and student at FHS.

Sia attended an environmental leadership course this summer. She is interested in working with the committee and implementing environmental practices at school.

Viviana Pinhasi – resident

Viviana is interested in working with the committee and assisting with implementing sustainable and environmentally conscientious practices with local businesses.

C. Administrative / Communications

Meeting Minute approval for:

a. May 1, 2018 – M/S/A – J. Tucker / K. Perry / all

b. June 5, 2018 – M/S/A – K. Perry / J. Tucker / all

2. Explore Farmington:

a. John has submitted the Invasive Species Management blog for posting. Shannon is working with Rose to have the blog posted this week.

b. Shannon to contact Rodger to confirm his article for October.

c. Shannon to contact Rose to see if it is possible to track the number of people that open a blog post.

d. Betty is interested in writing a post about Waste Reduction (Winter 2018/2-019)

e. Sia is interested in writing a blog post about Water Usage (Spring 2019)

f. Other blog idea for the holiday time – alternatives to using wrapping paper

Below is the schedule of the blog postings and topics. Posting are to be ready by the 1st of the month.

April	Cate	Annual Clean Up Day
June	Patti	Textile Recycling Shannon – post Clean Up Day results
July (late)	Patti	LED street light conversion
August	John	CT Water Planting Area/Invasive Species Management
October	Rodger	Harvesting / Growing cycle
December	Katy	Energy Savings projects – household focus
February	Andrea	Energy Saving / Recycling efforts for students

D. Waste Reduction

a. Old Business

1. 2019 Annual Clean-Up Day
 - i. The Committee agreed that the Clean-up date should coincide with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection date.
 - ii. Shannon to check with Scott regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Collection date for spring 2019. (Date is not available yet.)
- 2) Textile Recycling
 - 1) Patti provided a summary of the program for the group.
 - 2) The timing of this is likely to come after the completion of the streetlight program.

b. New Business

- a. J. Tucker motion to amend agenda, K. Perry second, all approved
- b. John shared an article from The New Yorker, Do-Gooders Dept., One Man's Trash – the article is about plogging (picking up trash while jogging)

E. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

a. Old Business

- i. CT Water Planting Area Update: knotweed removal efforts are needed. Shannon to send an email requesting assistance.

b. New Business - None

F. Other Items

- 1) Green Efforts Committee Logo
 - 1) Letter format with logo is completed.
- 2) Discuss Green Efforts Committee Goals through 2020
 - 1) Patti led a brainstorming session that was focused on tangible goals that could be implemented in the next 6 months to 1 year.
 - a. waste reduction
 - b. reduce bottled water usage and sales
 - c. encourage the use of refillable / reusable water bottles
 - d. encourage the refill of reusable water bottles for free at local establishments

- e. establish a green or environmental checklist for businesses, with a focus on waste reduction
 - i. this would be voluntary
 - ii. the discussion should include Rose
 - iii. an award or acknowledgement system should be implemented for participating businesses
 - f. Composting – schools, residences, businesses
 - g. implement Simple Recycling
 - h. waste management education at the schools
 - i. solar on municipal buildings
 2. The Committee agreed to start with the environmental checklist for businesses. All were encouraged to come prepared to the next meeting to discuss items that should be on the checklist, how this could be implemented and possible award / acknowledgement systems.
 3. Patti shared a handout about a competition that Trex sponsors, that involves the recycling of plastic bags and film.
 4. Katy asked if it is possible to get information on historic energy usage at Town Buildings and if it was possible to track our waste removal volume and expenses. Patti indicated that much of the information is in the annual report and budget. Shannon noted that waste removal volumes and fees were available as they had already been shared with Waste Zero as part of the analysis conducted to investigate SMART Waste Removal.
- 3) West Hartford Clean Energy Commission
 - 1) Andrea indicated that she had been contacted by a member of the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission and that they were interested in coming to meet with us and share ideas. The Committee discussed timing and thought the November or December meeting would work. Andrea to follow up.

Adjourn 8:10 pm

cc: Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fagan, Board of Education
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant
Rose Ponte, Director of Economic Development
Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works
Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager