



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

January 7, 2019

6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Patti Boye-Williams

Rodger Phillips

Katy Perry

Stacey Petruzella

Betty DaCruz

Andrea Sobinski

Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager

Absent:

John Tucker

Cate Grady-Benson

A. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32.

B. Public Comment – There was no public comment

C. Presentation from Miss Porter's students regarding Renewable Energy

Alizeh Raza, Naima Small, and Shamreetha Seeniraj presented to the Committee on the topic of Renewable Energy. They highlighted the importance of promoting renewable energy and the importance of educating the public about the benefits of using renewable energy such as Solar. They argued that the benefits outweighed the additional costs that most renewable energy source has. Moving to more renewable energy sources will help prevent climate change, conserve fossil fuels, improve our overall public health and protect our ecosystems. They pointed out that there are local ecosystems such as the Farmington River that will benefit from a turn towards renewable energy.

The presentation was followed by general conversation and back and forth with the committee. It was decided that the presenters from Miss Porters could provide the Committee with a blog post on the topic for a future posting.



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D. Administrative / Communications

To Approve the December 2018 meeting minutes - M/S/A– DaCruz / Petruzella / all

Explore Farmington – discuss blogs and due dates

Katy Perry will do her blog post from December. A discussion ensued about a dedicated green efforts newsletter to go out town-wide. This newsletter will go out in March. It will have three main focus areas:

- Clean Up Day on April 27, 2019. Cate G-B will write this article.
- Recycling – focus on the new items that are recyclable and what may not be recyclable any longer. Katy P will write this article.
- Waste Reduction - Patti B-W will write this article.

Articles will be due to Erica's office on February 1, 2019 so we can talk about them at the February 5, 2019 meeting.

E. Waste Reduction

1. Old Business

- 1) 2019 Annual Clean Up Day – early planning - April 27, 2019 – no report

2. New Business

- 1) Waste Reduction Sub-Committee report

The subcommittee explained that they have been looking at restaurants as a focus to start the waste reduction campaign. Explained some of the ways a restaurant can be more sustainable. Shared with the group some information from the National Restaurant Association regarding their conservation program.

The subcommittee will also reach out to Rose Ponte, Economic Development director about conducting a restaurant owner breakfast dedicated to waste reduction in town dining establishments. They will also look into the EDC newsletter creating a green spotlight to highlight what businesses are doing to reduce waste.

Andrea and Stacey will review recycling in the schools. The committee discussed that there are some parent concerns that there is not enough recycling in the schools. Andrea assured the group that the schools use single stream recycling.

F. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

1. Old Business

- 1) CT Water Planting Area – dormant for the winter

2. New Business



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G. Other Business

1. WH Clean Energy Commission – March meeting – 3/5/19

A. **Adjournment** - Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 p.m. M/S/A B. DaCruz /K. Perry / all