

**Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee**

**October 1, 2019
Town Hall, Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Patti Boyle-Williams
Stacey Petruzella
Andrea Sobinski
Maureen Messier
Rodger Phillips
Cate Grady-Benson
Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager
Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director

Absent

Jennifer Wynn

A. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Public Comment

Marilyn Strelau, 52 Wynwood Road, made two suggestions to the committee:

1. Create a label for recycle bins of what's in and what's out when people move into town. It could be given to them when they file their deed with the Town Clerk's office.
2. Develop a YouTube video on how to recycle correctly, demonstrating what items are in and out. This tool can be used to educate elementary school kids.

Joe Barnes attended the meeting. He is new to Farmington and is interested in green efforts.

C. Presentations – None

D. Administrative / Communications

A Motion was made and seconded (Sobinski/Grady-Benson) to move agenda item E1₁ to the top of the agenda. The minutes for this part of the agenda are below in their regular order.

1. To Approve the August 7, 2019 and September 3, 2019 meeting minutes.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Sobinski/Petruzella) it was unanimously voted: to approve the August 7, 2019 meeting minutes as amended.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Sobinski/Petruzella) it was unanimously voted: to approve the September 3, 2019 meeting minutes.

2. **Explore Farmington – discuss blog ideas**
The committee will check to see if the NY/CT information given by Stacey was posted.
3. **Green Efforts Newsletter – discuss next edition content and deadline**
Articles are due by October 18, 2019 to Erica Robertson. The following committee members will cover the following topics:
 - Meat free holiday waste, What's In and What's Out – Cate
 - Textile recycling, consolidate trips, Amazon day – Patty
4. **Plastic Pollution Presentation – Sept 16, 2019- Debriefing**
Over 80 people attended. The committee discussed how to involve younger populations and get young activists to work with the committee. The committee can partner with the library for a winter program and also a teen program to involve a younger demographic. They can also create a YouTube video with the help of the library staff. The committee will research which organizations have green teams and try to connect with them.

The committee will create a Green Spotlight for West Farms Mall for embarking on a solar farm.

E. Waste Reduction

1. Old Business

1) Rose Ponte – Economic Development Director – discuss how to engage the business community in waste reduction.

Rose Ponte made the following recommendations:

- Engage businesses through calling or visiting them
- Connect with local business owners at small business owner breakfasts
- Identify a target audience. This is key. Who do you want to attract.
- Speak with property owners and managers
- Market via social media
- Advertise through the Town Newsletter
- Connect with Ted Glanzer from the Valley Press
- Develop a relationship with West Farms Mall, currently embarking on a solar farm.

2) November meeting – Jose Fontanez, Chartwells

The meeting will be held on November 13, 2019.

3) Textile Recycling- Contract is being reviewed. Project should launch by year's end.

2. New Business

F. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

1. Old Business

1) CT Water Planting Area – knotweed removal – public participation

Kristie B from Girl Scouts will reach out to Shannon Rutherford regarding the date.

2. New Business

G. Other Business

- Facebook Page Editors

All committee members will be added as editors.

H. Adjournment

Upon a motion made and seconded (Sobinski/Petruzella) it was unanimously voted: to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

cc: Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works / Town Engineer
Paula Ray, Town Clerk
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fagan, Board of Education
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant
Sandra Michaud, Land Use Coordinator