

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
January 5, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Town Council Chambers

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert, Chair
Betty DaCruz
Cate Grady-Benson
John Hinze
Katy Perry

Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager
Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town
Planner

- A. Call to Order – The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- B. Public Comment
None

- C. To Approve the Following Minutes
 - 1. Green Efforts Committee meeting dated – October 6, 2015 was unanimously approved (Hinze/Perry)
 - 2. Green Efforts Committee meeting dated – November 10, 2015 was unanimously approved (Perry/Hinze)

- D. Old Business
 - 1. Annual Clean Up Day
 - a. Cate updated the committee on the history of the Clean Up Day – 19 years. Originated with the Garden Club and Cate moved the program when she came to the Green Efforts Committee, as the Garden Club was no longer able to coordinate this program.
 - b. Timing: Clean Up Day usually occurs the weekend after the school gets back from April vacation. This would place Clean Up Day on April 30th this year. Alternatively the event could be held prior to break on April 9th. After some discussion and concern with inclement weather in early April it was decided to hold the event on April 30th.
 - c. Cate indicated the intent to continue with the same four volunteer check-in sites: Farmington Fire Department, Tunxis Mead, Main Library and Tunxis Hose Fire Department.
 - d. We discussed the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day (HHWCD). Cate noted that in recent years the HHWCD had taken place on a different day than the Clean Up Day to help facilitate logistics, maximize the Town resources, and avoid congestion at the Town Hall / High School campus. Shannon noted that Russ Arnold was looking into changing the implementation of the HHWCD. Rather than contracting with the MCD, Russ was looking into collaborating

with other Farmington Valley Towns to self-implement the collection. The intent is to have three or four collection days throughout the year, with different towns hosting each of the collection days. {Shannon followed up with Russ on 1/6/2016 and Russ confirmed that the HHWCD will include document shredding and electronics recycling, there will be no change to the services offered.} {1/25/2016 – It has since been confirmed that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will also occur on April 30th.}

e. Marketing of the Event:

1. Cate noted that we need more marketing efforts with local businesses and civic associations to increase their participation in the event. She will start an email list with potential groups to contact and we can pair with committee members willing to reach out to the businesses / associations.
2. School involvement:
 - a. Westwoods – Tara Vazquez will be coordinating a group of students to participate
 - b. IAR – Need to check in to see if there is still an Environmental Team / Club or see if there is interest in forming a team (Shannon will reach out to IAR)
 - c. A new sign vendor is needed as Fast Signs in Bristol has closed. (On-line options were discussed.)
 - d. The event will be mentioned / promoted in the Spring Town Letter that is issued prior to the Annual Town Meeting.
 - e. Decided to purchase sturdier gloves for volunteers to borrow for the day (40 to 50 pair). The disposable latex gloves did not hold up well.
 - f. Katy will work on the on-line sign-up / map for volunteers to sign up prior to the event.
 - g. Possibly coordinate with compost bin sale (details in minutes below).

2. Community Pledge

- a. Erica provided an update for the group. She started with sharing the data available on our Clean Energy Communities Dashboard. The current status is the following:
 1. Energy Efficiency Points: 196 points – for every 100 points the town can be awarded 1 Bright Ideas Grant (\$10,000.00)
 2. Renewable Energy Points: 482 points – for every 100 points the town can be awarded 1 kW Clean Energy System (or possibly \$4,500.00)
- b. Per our Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, the energy reduction targets must be met in order to be eligible to receive the Bright Ideas Grants from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and the use of renewable energy targets must be met in order to be eligible

to receive incentive rewards from CEFIA under the Clean Energies Communities program.

- c. (This item is supplemental info to the meeting.) Benchmarking is required to track and demonstrate the energy reductions and the use of renewable energy. Per the meeting with the Eversource representatives in October, the Energy Star Portfolio Manager has been established for the Town of Farmington and the Town Buildings to be tracked and the utility account numbers for each building have all been provided to Eversource, as required. The baseline year of 2009-2010 has been selected as this is prior to the implementation of the Ameresco project. We are currently awaiting the utility usage info from Eversource for the baseline and pledge years.
- d. Erica received an email on December 1st from Bob Wall at CT Green Bank noting a change in the renewable energy program is expected in 2016. Any points earned through December 1, 2015 will remain valid and points will be retained. At this time no additional points will be awarded for renewable energy projects.
- e. Next Steps:
 - 1. We are working on redeeming the first Bright Ideas Grant.
 - 2. We need 4 more Energy Efficiency Points in order to be eligible for a second Bright Ideas Grant. (The front page of the dashboard outlines how points can be earned.)
 - 3. Redeem the credits earned for the Renewable Energy Points (possibly \$18,000.00)

3. Outdoor Lighting Project

- a. Erica noted that the proposed Lighting Plans came in over the holiday week and have not yet been reviewed. There will be a further update next month.

E. New Business

1. Compost Bins

- a. Betty provided a brief update on the bins. There appears to be two main options for the purchasing the bins:
 - 1. The Town pays for the bins up front – requiring the Town to provide the initial funds and provide storage of the bins until they are sold
 - 2. The Town implements a pay first and distribute on a specific date program – requires the Town to collect payments in advance.
 - 3. Betty noted that one of the potential suppliers, EnviroWorld (contact Basil Thompson), may be able to set up the pre-order and prepayment on-line through their own website. It was agreed that this would be the best option. Betty was going to

follow up on the logistics and timing of this and will report back next month.

- b. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to tie the distribution of the compost bins to the Annual Clean Up Day if we can get the logistics and timing to work.
 - c. Betty noted that DEEP has a grant available – Recycle Rewards. Betty to forward the info to Shannon and Erica. Shannon will take the lead with further investigating.
 - d. Katy noted it would be nice to tie an educational component to the sale/distribution of the compost bins.
2. Solarize Farmington
 - a. Peter Stevenson will come speak to the committee about the results of the Solarize Farmington project. John Vibert to speak with Peter and coordinate his attendance at the February or March meeting, pending Peter's availability.
 - b. John will discuss with Peter the possibility of having an inventory completed of the municipal buildings and evaluating the benefits of solar installation on some of the buildings. The next step would be to evaluate power purchase options / agreements; or solar money available for direct installation.
 3. Adopt a Roadway
 - a. Cate has initiated discussions with the DOT regarding the program. She will be following up further over the next month or so. Once we have more details, we can invite Rose Ponte to join us to see if it is possible to reach out to local businesses sponsor the program for Route 4 and Route 6.

F. Other Business

1. Meeting schedule – It was agreed that the committee should meet monthly through the Annual Clean Up Day to ensure everything will be in place. We will then evaluate the need to meet monthly through the summer and the rest of the year.

G. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

cc: Paula Ray, Town Clerk to post
Deb Bull – by e-mail for the Web
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Mary Grace Reed, Board of Education
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant