

*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**  
October 4, 2016  
**6:30 p.m.**

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert, Chair  
Betty DaCruz  
John Hinze  
Katy Perry

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner  
Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director  
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities

- A. Call to Order – The chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Public Comment  
None

The Chairman requested that the Administrative matters be moved to the beginning of the meeting. This will be permanent.

- F. Administrative / Communications
  - 1. The June 7, 2016 and September 20, 2016 meeting minutes were not approved, due to a lack of quorum.
  - 2. Unionville Festival Recap:
    - a. Betty and Katy, along with Rose, attended on behalf of the Committee.
    - b. The presentation board that Katy put together was a nice visual aid to explain the activities sponsored and supported by the Committee, it also helped to draw people to the table.
    - c. Many people signed up to receive email notifications about the Committee's upcoming events. (Katy, if you can forward the list to me, a scan or picture is fine, I'll get it entered into a spreadsheet.)
    - d. There was a reasonable amount of interest in the programs the Committee sponsors – such as the compost bins, and there was interest in rain barrels.
    - e. There was inquiry into whether the schools were involved with the Committee. This sparked a discussion about our possible outreach efforts to try to make a few connections.
  - 3. Semi-annual Newsletter:
    - a. Rose encouraged all of us to send her articles and ideas for the newsletter. She is tentatively planning to issue a newsletter in January or February.
  - 4. Calendar: The Committee discussed the calendar. The July date will be moved to the 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be voted on in November.
  - 5. The updated Rules of Procedure were discussed. The document will be emailed for a detail review by all and will be voted on in November.

6. The Committee reviewed and discussed membership status. John signed the letter requesting that the two members that have not participated in over a year be replaced. We also discussed outreach opportunities to others that may be interested.

C. Energy Conservation

1) Old Business

1. Solar – Municipal Buildings and Land

Rose met the Sales Consultant for Green Earth Energy Photovoltaic, Kim Gencarelli, at a business event. Rose distributed a number of Green Earth's brochures. John noted that he had spoken with the same company to discuss possible municipal solar opportunities for Farmington. Rose indicated that Green Earth is a preferred CPACE vendor. Betty discussed their experience working with Green Earth at their business building – overall a favorable impression.

Actions:

John will reach out to schools in the area that have recently installed solar on their roofs.

John will obtain the forms that need to be completed to assist in the building inventories. Shannon and Tim will work on completing the forms.

2. Community Pledge – no update since the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

3. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – the project will be reviewed with TPZ during their October meetings. (approved on 10/12)

2) New Business

1. Municipal Car Charging Stations

Rose reported that we missed this cycle of the DEEP grant for municipal car charging stations. The grant closed in July. Rose is following up with Eversource to see if there is a different opportunity directly through them.

D. Waste Reduction

1) Old Business

1) Adopt a Roadway – no update

2) Curbside Textile Recycling – meeting with representative set for October 6<sup>th</sup>. (The meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> with the program representative went well. Russ and I are awaiting follow up information from the representative before further decisions are made.)

2) New Business

1) 2017 Annual Clean Up Day – Clean Up day has been set for April 29, 2017.

E. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

1) Old Business

1) CT Water Planting Area Update

Shannon is working with Cate on a possible lead for an additional grant through HYPACK, a corporation in Middletown, CT. Grant funding will likely be tied to hands-on work at the planting area.

2) New Business

1) Bat Week (October 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>)

Katy Perry shared information that she had regarding Bat Week events. One activity they are encouraging during Bat Week is called [Pulling for Bats](#), in which people are encouraged to "host an invasive plant pull to help improve habitat and food for bats and other wildlife." Shannon is looking into a final Knotweed pulling at the planting area that may coincide with Bat Week.

cc: Kathy Eagen, Town Manager  
Paula Ray, Town Clerk to post  
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools  
Chris Fagan, Board of Education  
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities  
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant  
Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works  
Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager