

*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**  
November 1, 2016  
**6:30 p.m.**

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert, Chairman  
Betty DaCruz  
Cate Grady-Benson

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

Guests:

Adam Teff, Titan Energy  
Ryan Linares, Greenskies  
Structural Engineer, Greenskies

- A. Call to Order – The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Public Comment  
None
- C. Administrative / Communications
  - 1. The June 7, 2016, September 20, 2016 and October 4, 2016 meeting minutes were not approved, due to a lack of quorum.
  - 2. Semi-annual Newsletter:
    - a. Rose and Cate to meet separately to brainstorm items for the newsletter. Shannon to send to Rose the information on the Mattress Recycling Program.
  - 4. Calendar: The 2017 calendar was not voted on due to a lack of quorum.
  - 5. The updated Rules of Procedure were discussed. Voting was postponed to December.
  - 6. The two inactive members have been relieved of their membership commitment. These positions can now be filled by interested community members. Cate has a few individuals in mind and will follow up with the Committee in December.
  - 7. Betty reminded the Committee that the Green Circle Sustainability Award Program will be accepting applications in January.
- D. Energy Conservation
  - a. Old Business
    - 1. Solar – Municipal Buildings and Land  
Adam Teff with Titan Energy and two representatives from Greenskies spoke with the Committee about the potential for installing Solar Panels on municipally owned buildings and land. Adam provided a detailed overview of Solar Power Purchase Agreements, the ZREC (Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit) awards, and the possible applicability to Farmington. Adam discussed the fact that there is currently not a funding mechanism in place for a Virtual Net Metering program, thus it is not financially viable to install solar panels that

cannot be directly connected to an active meter (typically associated with a building). Therefore, consideration should be given to installation on a municipal or school building or unused land immediately adjacent to a municipal or school building. The next steps would include a site assessment of possible buildings and submitting an application for a ZREC award.

2. Community Pledge – working on redeeming the next Bright Ideas Grant
3. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – the project was approved by TPZ at their 10/12 meeting. The plans are being reviewed and cross referenced in preparation for going out to bid.
4. 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.

- ii. New Business  
None

#### E. Waste Reduction

##### a. Old Business

- i. Adopt a Roadway – no update
- ii. Curbside Textile Recycling – Shannon is currently reviewing the Simple Recycling contract for subsequent review and discussion with the Town Manager

##### b. New Business

- i. 2017 Annual Clean Up Day – Clean Up day has been set for April 29, 2017. Rose to coordinate shredding event with Farmington Bank for the same day at their Unionville or Farmington location. Shannon to confirm that electronics recycling will included with the event.
- ii. Bulk Waste – Mattress Recycling – approximately 489 mattresses were recycled and diverted from the waste stream during Farmington's October Bulk Waste removal.

F. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

a. Old Business

i. CT Water Planting Area Update

Cate to follow up on 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. Shannon indicated that a final knotweed pulling event was likely not needed this year. We will start again in the spring.

b. New Business

None

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