

Sustainability Committee Minutes

September 22, 2020

Center School Conference Room

Attendees: Jennifer Miller, Karen Taylor, Heather Fried, Rebecca Waldo, Ian Neviasser, Ronald Turner

Post meeting follow up: Diane Linderman

Regrets: Phil Parcak, Rachel Carrion, Paula Gaudet, Connie Pan

- 1) Approval of Minutes – June 2020 minutes approved. No further comments.
- 2) New Business
 - a) Renewables Workstream
 - i) Mile Creek Solar – Although the panel attachments discussed in June will allow solar panel installation, the roof manufacturer and installer will not warranty the roof if any attachments are made. Alternatives for offset elsewhere, including virtual net metering, will continue to be explored. Noted, covered parking spots and field next to HS have been eliminated.
 - ii) Electric passenger van for school field trips, clubs, small sports – Upon further research and discussions with vendors, less expensive and more reliable and non-custom options will become available in the marketplace in 2 to 3 years. Given the high cost and limited options discussed in June, the committee decided to continue exploring options and possible grants rather than opt for a purchase now. Further analysis of the demand will also be made “post-COVID.”
 - iii) Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Program was discussed. It is a 12 week online weekly series of modules hosted by “Live Green” which started in September, building on each to prepare a roadmap to electric vehicles. Rebecca Waldo is the key contact. Jenn Miller will attend as well.
 - iv) Action: Ron Turner to update Region18 FY 19/20 energy usage summary and provide to Rebecca Waldo.

- v) Workstream to look into monitoring energy on appropriate website for Region18 access. Good publicity and good for students to become interested.
- b) Heather Fried – Education workstream. Workstream has been joined with the 3R workstream in several meetings over the summer in preparation for any awareness campaigns in fall. Workstream will reconvene in next few weeks.
- c) Karen Taylor – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) workstream. Great progress over the summer with lots of participation and a site visit to Cold Spring Farm in Haddam to discuss viability of participating in their food waste program. Summary of ideas



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discussed provided by team.

- i) Recommendation to add “Refuse,” thus making the name 4R workstream, was discussed and unanimously approved without need to involve BoE.
 - ii) Recommendation to create a fall Education and Communications campaign for the 4Rs in conjunction with the nationwide Trex Challenge Kickoff the week of November 16. Discussed and approved. Seek assistance from Suzanne Thompson and communications lead. [Post meeting decision: Present to BoE for approval on October 7]. Upon approval from BoE, detailed plans to be reviewed by SC next meeting.
- 3) Other Business – Brief discussion regarding connections made with similar Old Lyme and Lyme efforts including “SustainCT” application, Open Space and Conservation Commission.
 - 4) Adjourned 4:40 p.m. Next Meeting Scheduled – October 27, 2020, 3:30 p.m., Conference Room and Teleconference.