

# Sustainability Committee Minutes

**October 27, 2020**

Center School Conference Room

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

Post meeting follow up: Diane Linderman

Regrets: Phil Parcak, Rachel Carrion, Paula Gaudet

Other attendees: Steven MacAusland

- 1) Approval of Minutes – Rebecca made motion to accept. Karen seconded. No further comments. September 2020 minutes approved.
- 2) New Business
  - a) Renewables Workstream
    - i) Rebecca Waldo presented update on R18 overall energy use for FY19/20. Overall, clean energy usage remained consistent with prior year at 6.4%. Air source heat pump installation may represent the largest opportunity. Data for heating oil will be analyzed to determine actual consumption versus purchases and charts updated. Action: Ron Turner to provide usage data.
    - ii) Rebecca Waldo has pointed M&J Bus contact John Hitch to the DERA school bus rebate application which closes October 30 and the DERA State grant application which closes November 18.
    - iii) Charging stations on school properties are being explored. Some grant potential for up to 30% of cost of installation with driver paying cost to charge up, however, expires December 31. Continuing to research opportunities and connections with Old Lyme.
    - iv) 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.

- i) Decision to postpone Greenleaf School application until spring when teachers may be able to focus on the required elements and detail.
- ii) Reviewed draft slide deck to be used for the November staff meetings at each of the schools outlining the kickoff of the 4R campaign. Committee provided positive feedback. A selected staff member at each school will present the material during the November 2 staff meeting, if possible; otherwise, the subsequent November staff meeting. All staff should be briefed prior to distribution of posters, Trex magnets, and the campaign assessment (survey). Environmental Club students provided input as well and have started to create a number of brief videos for morning meetings.



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c) Karen Taylor – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (4R) workstream.



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- i) Workstream activities (word doc)
  - ii) Note: From the school tours, which the team completed last week, it was noted that the MS cafeteria arrangement with a slop sink to dump fluids in prior to recycling or garbage is good example of a best practice although not feasible right now in other schools.
  - iii) 4R Campaign assessment – Karen reviewed the five question survey to be sent out at the beginning and end of the campaign in order to provide a qualitative measure of success. Team agreed a form of measurement is necessary. Action: Ian and Jenn to follow up with Diane to ensure agreement on assessment next steps asap.
- 3) Other Business – Brief discussion regarding connections made with similar Old Lyme and Lyme efforts including “SustainCT” application, Open Space, Old Lyme Land Trust, Lyme Land Trust, and conservancy groups. The HS Environmental Club often teams up with these

groups around clean-ups or weed-pulling, etc. Action: Jenn will provide an overview of the known efforts touching our Sustainability Committee remit.

4) Adjourned 4:40 pm. Next Meeting scheduled – November 24, 2020, 3:30 p.m.