

Sustainability Committee Minutes Mar 23, 2021

Center School Conference Room, 3:30 pm

Attendees: Jennifer Miller, Karen Taylor, Heather Fried, Rebecca Waldo, Diane Linderman, Ronald Turner, Ian Neviaser

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

- 1) Approval of Minutes – Karen made motion to accept. Rebecca seconded. No further comments. January 2021 minutes approved.
- 2) New Business
 - a) H. Fried – Education workstream
 - i) Expanding pollinator garden behind library. Dimensions agreed upon. Not a place children will be congregating, per se. (in regards to a concern with bees, which is not considered by the pollinator pathway proponents to be a concern). Sarah Sal, Pollinate Old Lyme, and Sustainable OL are collaborating on the Mile Creek butterfly garden.
 - ii) Outdoor classrooms are being established at the 2 elementary schools and the middle school in response to community suggestions regarding the covid19 pandemic. Note that this project at the Middle School will take significant effort to remove the bamboo from the courtyard which has overgrown over the past 2 years.
 - b) K. Taylor – 4R workstream
 - i) TREX challenge – 2750 lbs. April 15 is Earth Day and the end of the challenge. Starting April 16th, Trex has allowed us to continue collecting for the '21-'22 challenge. Megan Winski's Life Skills class at HS has weighed. Sorted, bagged and recorded over half of our total. Bridget Compano and Karen will be putting together a few photos for social media. Our bins will continue to be maintained through the end of the school year. This summer, we will advertise to the community to continue to bring their film to Big Y Old Lyme. The OL First Selectman's weekly report April 23rd will include the Trex Challenge results.

- ii) Chartwells has switched to cardboard boxes and straws only on demand. Some discussion on MHRA closings and actions residents might take to reduce waste at the source (“refuse”). Karen and Jenn will take offline for discussion.
- iii) Brief discussion of other recycling opportunities such as Bay State Textiles which may even generate small revenue for the school or clubs. Agreed we do not want their bins on our campuses but will continue to think about other opportunities.

3) Live Green EV update

- a) Live Green held 3 School Bus informational meetings in Jan/Feb 2021. There are 8100 diesel school buses in CT. There are 2 EV buses (1 in Middletown, 1 in New Haven). State goal is to have 30% EV by 2030. Bluebird, Lion Electric, Daimler/Thomas Built, DATTCO, Highland Transportation discussed status, opportunities, projected timelines, strategies for deployment. Committee discussed pathways: independent, where we seek grants, funding, infrastructure; or buses as a service (which is how our contract with M&J is currently). Currently, Highland Transportation is the leader in providing this overall service which will reduce risk (infrastructure, technology changes) while guaranteeing a fixed price. They also set up Vehicle to Grid services which create a potential revenue stream for the Region, not the company. Regionally, they have contracts in Beverly, MA., and Jersey City, NJ., to date.

4) Roadmap Discussion

- i) The Committee had a one year remit to provide recommendations to the BoE, which ends in June. As the June BoE meeting agenda is expected to be extremely lengthy, committee agreed to target the May BoE meeting for a final presentation of our recommendations. Jenn will draft slides including: accomplishments, recommendations (high level targets/goals, recommended actions for administration to achieve), observations on sustainability success factors.
- ii) Sustainable CT has a Community Match Grant program available this year. Anyone is able to apply for a grant if the municipality is a registered Sustainable CT participant. Both Old Lyme and Lyme are registered. As such, should Region18 desire to set up a community match challenge, we are able to do so. The committee

discussed ideas and agreed that a number of EV chargers located on the OL campus might be a logical goal for the challenge. Jenn will gather further information on the challenge parameters. Ron will provide ballpark estimate for various scenarios.

5) Adjourned 4:40 pm.