



WEST
HARTFORD


Sustainability Advisory Group

Meeting

Date: August 25, 2021

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
 - Follow Up:
 - SAG Wishes Letter
 - Sust CT Application Status
 - Visioning Exercise
 - Brainstorming Exercise
 - Next Steps
 - Round Table
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Land Acknowledgement

SAG Wishes Letter

- [Letter](#) was sent to Council Aug 9
- Mayor responded via email Aug 9
 - “ Thank you Catherine. And my heartfelt thanks to the task force for their commitment, passion to sustainability and service to the community. Matt and I will connect on this.”

Sust CT Application Status - Done!

- Silver = 400 pts, 1 action each category, 3 equity actions
 - Submitted Aug 24, 2021
 - 770 points (some were iffy...)
 - 37 Actions (66 sub-actions)
 - 4 equity actions included: WHPS Educational Equity Policy, POCD, Action Plan & Civilian Police Review Board, Juneteenth
 - Will hear in early Nov; recognition event in Dec
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Process

- Visioning Exercise (30 min)
 - Brainstorm for 5-10 minutes
 - Google Word Doc for those online
 - Mesh the visioning statements so everyone can see
 - Narrow it down
- Break (5 min)
- Prioritization / Brainstorming Exercise (45 minutes)
 - Brainstorm for 5 more minutes - create 2-5 more gaps / topics
 - Sort / Group into the SCT categories
 - Vote on the priorities (with stickers!)
 - Online version will be in a Sheet
 - Narrow down to top 10; everything else in bike lot







Visioning Exercise

For Phase 2


What is your vision for West Hartford?

- What do we want to accomplish for West Hartford?
 - What is the future you want to see?
 - Describe the experience of walking down a street.
 - What phrase explains what that really means to you?
 - What will WeHa Do? Get? Be?
 - By working with us the town will improve what?
 - By choosing our recommendations our community will have the ability to do what?
 - By doing this work how will the community feel?
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Vision Examples

- To strike a balance between growth, protection of natural resources and access to community spaces.
 - To be the most resilient, welcoming, accessible, and livable community in Connecticut
 - To build a framework for a more sustainable, equitable, livable community
 - To create a community that prizes well-being of its citizens above all else
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NOTES - VISION STATEMENTS

- To create sustainable and resilient community, with equity,
 - Waste management
 - Increased recycling
 - Local food production
 - Address climate change
 - Plan for being a resilient town
 - Improve and maintain its tree canopy, cool shaded streets and parks, with tree ordinances to limit tree cutting. Safe community with low crime rates, efficient transportation means, vibrant town center
 - Town is actively implementing a set of connected actions,
 - Equitable housing
 - Climate change
 - Electric vehicles to be used broadly
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NOTES - VISION STATEMENTS


- Town that shows up, they are the town where people show up at community meetings, town meetings, boe meetings
- Quiet town resulting from fewer vehicles and more spaces that connect the various town intersections that enable people to gather and mingle, a town re-designed around people
- Green WEHA with a lot of trees, community/shared solar, more representative, and inclusive, more racially diverse with emphasis on things like backyard food production, etc.
- Town that links all the green spaces and gives the community a great connectivity. Linked common spaces, improve, it more healthy. Using volunteers like seniors to enable certain projects to be implemented

NOTES - VISION STATEMENTS

- All town planners incorporate sustainability in their planning, and all of our residents are concerned about our environment, and are adopting sustainable lifestyles. Solar energy should be the norm
- To establish a framework for a more sustainable and environmental future
 - consistent communication on sustainability
 - Financial incentives on sustainability
 - Drive towards benefits that are shared by everyone
- Town that is committed to sustainability, ensuring that it is thriving for generations to come
- Family friendly and pet friendly town, with electric vehicles , garden produce that is affordable and available to all residents, increased engagement from our community, reducing litter,
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- Ability to use transportation that is non-polluting, community that is carbon neutral that is more connected and has greater access, and is multicultural, and a quieter community.
- Having sustainability education integrated into the school curriculum, and establish foundations of sustainability at an early age
- Residents are focused on sustainability, businesses are involved in a circular economy, also a shareable economy (tool, bike sharing, etc), focus on green spaces that are clean, more trees, plants.
- Research identify and reckon with policies that have left us segregated, and resulted in envt. Injustices, and moving fwd prioritize and course correct these injustices, taking these on as our responsibilities.

- Dynamic place with multitude housing, sustainability considered in all aspect of development, efficient and safe transportation network - town can improve bike networks, connecting certain neighborhoods, providing more housing choices.
- The Town of West Hartford is committed to a sustainable community with emphasis placed on preserving our natural resources, encouraging all to work as a community and commit to insuring a thriving environment for generations to come.
- Everyone in West Hartford would have access to affordable housing (not just shelter), students in WeHa would be educated on their right to housing and given access to homelessness prevention tools at an early age. B

- Biking/walking would be more often used than other forms of transportation.
 - Community members all feel represented by their local government and see someone in a position of power that shares a similar backg
 - Equity & inclusion in the schools - promote activities that bring together kids of all backgrounds and cultures, activities that break down the barriers that separate blacks, whites, Asians, and others. WH, like the rest of America is becoming increasingly diverse.
 - People in West Hartford will be able to use active transportation to get to school, work, church, stores and recreation/health care in 15 minutes in a community that will be interconnected, carbon neutral and multicultural.
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Brainstorming and Categorizing

Ground Rules

1. No bad ideas - SERIOUSLY
2. Respect others and don't disparage
3. All ideas we can't reach right now, will go into a [Bike Lot](#) for later

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OydgHqsrQCkXIQZ3ECLyN5UaSAtdNksh5G3sEPj9sAI/edit?usp=sharing>



To ask Matt

What are his priorities?

What is already budgeted among our priorities?

Where do they overlap?

What is the process for requesting funds if we need them in the future?



Next Steps

1. Feedback - How did today's session go?
2. Need to decide whether to meet in-person or virtually going forward? - NEW GUIDE FROM TOWN
3. Review and consider the top 10 selected
4. "Ratify" at next meeting: Sep 22
5. Matt Hart is scheduled to attend next meeting. What would you like him to bring or be prepared to discuss?

Round Table

Q&A, comments, announcements

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