



WEST HARTFORD SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Room 217

August 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Kim Hughes read Land Acknowledgement

1. SAG Wishes Letter – sent Aug 9

SAG Wishes - Letter was sent to Town Council on August 9
Mayor responded via email on August 9

2. Sustainable CT Application – submitted Aug 24

Sustainable CT Application Status – completed

Submitted:

- 770 points
- 37 actions
- 4 equity actions

We should hear back in early November

3. Visioning Exercise

Words Vision

Diverse/ Multicultural

Nourished/ local food

Clean and safe

Green/ verdant

People-centered

Connected community

Active

Quiet

Easy to transport

Culture of Volunteerism and Inclusion

Courageous and willing to center communities historically disenfranchised

“15-minute” community

Carbon neutral

“Us” community

Steps up

Family/multigenerational families
Friendly
Integrated
Circular Economy
Solar/ Energy efficient
Dynamic
Housing Instability
Homelessness education
Equity

4. Brainstorming Exercise

Participants were given color-coded stickers and were asked to pick their top five actions

Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

- Be anti-racist proactively (5)

Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

- WeHa Tree canopy (8)

Clean and Diverse Transportation Choices

- Complete Streets (8)
- Improve public transportation (6)

Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure

- Clean energy program (8)

Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

- Education in and out of schools on sustainability

Effective, Compassionate, homeless Prevention

- (5)

5. Next Steps

Matt Hart – visit 9/22

What's the town prepared to put money into, that overlap with our goals?

How can we request the town put money into our priorities?

Inform him of our top 11 Wishes

6. Round Table - Q&A, Comments, Announcements

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."

From:
To:
Cc:

Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Sustainable Advisory Group - Meeting Recap (Aug)
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:26:02 PM

Hi everyone,

Thanks for patiently waiting for the recap of our last meeting. Preeti and I have not yet been able to get together to fully debrief which is why the delay. Hopefully we'll be able to review everything in the next few days to tackle the vision statement, but I wanted to share the top 11 so you would have more time to review. For those who were not able to join the last meeting, we spent the time brainstorming the top 11 issues that we'll focus on going forward, and during the next meeting we'll approve the list.

Our vision centered around creating a livable, walkable, sustainable town that shows up as a community.

Some buzz words that were popular in the future we want to see "walkable streets, lush, verdant parks, streets, etc. We want a place with bike lanes, sidewalks, EV cars, scooters, buses, connected hubs and neighborhoods. We want places for kids to play and for elderly and disabled community to feel welcome, and clean and safe neighborhoods for families, singles, and people in all stages of life. We want the community to reflect the world that we live in and we want quality schools and climate resilient infrastructure."

Top 11

1. Complete Streets Program: Sidewalks, Protected Bike Lanes, Walkable Streets
2. Clean and 100% Renewable Energy Programs
3. Tree Canopy Investment
4. Improve Public Transportation, Connections to Complete Streets, Commuting options
5. Prevent homelessness, provide wrap around services, and support affordable housing programs
6. Invest in Anti-Racism programs, initiatives, efforts etc.
7. Develop a food waste reduction / compost program
8. Gap in healthy food programs, more fresh food / farmer market programs
9. Pass a climate emergency resolution and incorporate climate change into plans
- 10 A. Invest in attracting new businesses that support the circular economy
- 10 B. Accessible energy efficiency programs

Thanks, more to come this weekend,

Julia Farber

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