



WEST HARTFORD SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING

June 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

The second meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Group was conducted as a virtual public meeting. A recording of the meeting is available at West Hartford Community Interactive: YouTube and www.whctv.org at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hF2_Dj9o_c&t=22s

MEETING MINUTES

6:32 PM. Meeting called to order by Julia Farber, SAG Volunteer. There were some sound technical difficulties with WHCi in the beginning.

In attendance: Energy Specialist Catherine Diviney, Recycling Coordinator Katherine Bruns, members of the SAG. No need for roll call.

Slides from meeting are included as part of minutes

Julia reviewed agenda – see slides

1. SAG Map Exercise – Members of the SAG were asked to indicate where they lived in WH on a map. Members are from all different areas of town. This is one of the ways to look at diversity in a group to ensure different voices/perspectives are included – obviously there are others.
2. SAG Scope of Work – see slides
 - We reviewed the 2 phases of work for the SAG - 1) Sust CT application 2) broader discussion and recommendations. People generally agreed this was a good approach to “walk before you run.” Kim Hughes asked if it was a conflict of interest to apply for Sustainable CT Match Fund. Catherine replied no anyone in WH can apply for those grants.
 - There was an idea to capture all the sustainability wishes from the group’s 1st meeting and send in a letter to the Mayor and Town Council. The group decided they would like to do this. Catherine will circulate the wishes again in case people would like to edit their wording. People also want to have a way to support other wishes. Rachael Virgin and Kathye Cipes offered to do a visual representing the wishes of all in a graphic Kathleen Roche and Maura Beadreault offered to help Catherine with the drafting of a letter.

3. Sustainable CT – see slides

- The requirements for Silver certification reviewed, along with the equity actions and Posigen Solar for All energy campaign as an example.
- The list of assigned actions was reviewed and how the working groups would work on documenting these actions and then report back at the next meeting

4. Meet Sustainable CT Fellows - Sean Roach introduced himself. He is assigned to the greater Hartford region and is here to help WH SAG out. Senior at U Conn with fast track to Masters in Public Policy. Thomas Bonitz was not available.

5. Action Example - Catherine gave example of submitting for 4.2.1 - Poet Laureate - sharing the documentation needed for this action, including a Resolution and recent news clip of 2018 Poet Laureate

6. Next Steps - Catherine went over what the group should be doing next now that they know their actions.

7. Q&A?

- Sean explained the difference between New Action Credit and Rolling Credit
- Catherine and Sean reminded people that there is lots of good information and resources on the Sust CT websites, under actions (e.g., CT Success Stories and the certification reports from other towns which can be used as examples and ideas)
- Catherine indicated that the working groups have flexibility in keeping records, but that information from those group would be shared/reported back at the next full SAG meeting.
- There was consensus for virtual meeting on June 30th. What to do if individual cannot make a meeting was discussed. Participate of your own free will was the consensus. Ok to miss meeting.
- Kim Hughes shared information about creating pollinator gardens.
- Rachael Virgin suggested giving rotating members 5 minutes to speak on a topic of interest. Consensus that this was a good idea.
- Opened “room” for discussion and announcements: EV event. Juneteenth. Pollinator garden. MLK unveiling. Used book store. Open streets.

8:01 PM Meeting closed.

"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."