

Sustainable Litchfield Committee



Special Meeting

3:30 pm Monday, September 8th, 2025

Bantam Annex

MINUTES

- Call to Order: 3:37pm
 - In attendance: Daniela Larsson, Margaret Hunt, Barbara Carr, Dean Birdsall, Cathleen Wyse, Carrie Szwed, Jeff Zullo; Guests: 1st Selectman Denise Raap, Public Works Assistant Supervisor Brett Seamans
- Approve 8/12/2025 minutes
 - M. Hunt motioned to approve; D. Birdsall seconded. All in favor.
- New Actions Updates – committee initiatives
 - D. Larsson will create a Gmail account for SusLitch to improve communications within the group.
 - D. Raap approved putting solar savings on Town Hall sign to make people more aware of the benefits. J. Zullo calculated the solar savings. Wording for sign: "Sustainable Litchfield Reports 2025 Townwide Solar Savings of \$140,000!" C. Szwed will email Nicki and Carlissa about posting that message. M. Hunt also suggested submitting it to Litchfield.bz for the Orchids/Onions column.
 - D. Birdsall reported that there will be a meeting of the Watershed Collaboration on Friday, where they will officially adopt the Watershed Pledge. He will look into the Action requirements for 8.6 (Collaborate with another Municipality - Required for Gold) to see if this watershed initiative would qualify. We should also find out if this can be an equity toolkit.
 - M. Hunt reported that she met with Superintendent Dr. Villar to discuss a few things. She asked about putting the solar savings message on the Region 20 digital sign, but he said it's only for school-specific announcements. She also asked about Region 20 Board members going through SusCT's equity training. He said to talk to the School Board Chair, Tiffany Parkhouse, about that. She also reported that SusCT equity trainings appear to be booked through next year.

- C. Szwed read aloud the questions she had brainstormed for the Communications Survey we wanted to send to residents as one of our Equity Toolkits. M. Hunt reported that the “American 250” group had recently sent out a survey asking many of the same questions. Maybe we could partner with them if they’re willing to share their survey results, instead of creating our own. M. Hunt or D. Larsson will forward the survey to C. Szwed (they think they received it via email, but couldn’t locate it at the meeting).
- M. Hunt is gathering more information from Priscilla Presley about the Bantam Mural Project. She thinks we could submit this as an Innovative Action and also an Equity Toolkit.
- B. Seamans attended our meeting as a guest to report on a Roadside Improvement Project Workshop he recently attended in Winchester. It was put on by NWCD and Tom Zetterstrom and was primarily designed for regional municipal employees. B. Seamans said the #1 reason for the presence of invasive species along roadsides is Public Works vehicles, as well as other vehicles with landscaping equipment. He learned more about the herbicides used to treat invasive species, which are potent chemicals, but short-lived. He also stressed his commitment to monitor and treat our town’s fill and sand piles. He is meeting with a company called All Habitat on Friday to assess the cost of doing an herbicide treatment plan. He would also like to start a pilot program where a few of the highest-need roadside areas are treated. He is thinking about applying for a grant that could help with the cost. J. Zullo asked whether Litchfield has any policies or guidelines on invasive species management. We do not, but there are state guidelines, so we could adapt those if we wanted to initiate a town version. C. Szwed asked about having Tom Zetterstrom come to Litchfield, sponsored by SusLitch, to give a talk on invasive species management geared towards property owners and the general public. B. Seamans will reach out to him to gauge interest.
- D. Larsson reported that D. Field is stepping down from the SusLitch Committee, so we will have an open position.
- America’s 250th Litchfield
 - M. Hunt is going to bring her idea of doing a Region 20 blackout poetry showcase to Oliver Wolcott Library to see if they will partner with us. When she mentioned the idea to Dr. Villar, he said each of the school principals may be leading their own initiatives for “America 250.” M. Hunt doesn’t think this project will work as an equity toolkit after all. Therefore, it would be good if the Watershed Pledge would qualify. We need 4 new Equity Toolkits for Gold certification (because all of our others expired).
- Adjournment and next meeting date

- Next meeting is Monday, October 20th at 3:30pm in the Bantam Annex.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Szwed, Secretary