

# Sustainable Litchfield Committee



## Regular Meeting

3:30 pm Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

Bantam Annex

### MINUTES

- Call to Order: 3:37pm
  - In attendance: Carrie Szwed, Cathleen Wyse, Barbara Carr, Daniela Larsson, Guest: Barbara Putnam from Litchfield Conservation Commission
- Approve 10/20/2025 minutes
  - C. Wyse motioned to approve; D. Larsson seconded. All in favor.
- New Actions Updates – committee initiatives
  - Barbara Putnam was in attendance to discuss the Open Space Plan being developed by the Conservation Commission. The goal is for the Town of Litchfield to consider the goals of the Open Space Plan when developing the next POCD. SusLitch can also submit the OS Plan for Action 3.4.3. C. Szwed proofread the OS draft we received from Diane Stoner and gave the edits to Barbara. We also shared with her the Open Space Inventory (Excel file) that was compiled by HVA and submitted to SusCT for points in 2021. We noticed it is missing more recent open space acquisitions, so we are hoping D. Birdsall can review the file and work with HVA to make the updates. Then we'll need an updated Open Space map. Barbara also reported there is an Open Space Acquisition Fund in place, which might suffice for Action 3.4.4b.
  - C. Wyse commented (and B. Carr agreed) that our Committee seemed more productive when we were working as teams rather than individually, so we should consider collaborating more to make progress on our goals.
  - Now that the elections are over, M. Hunt, C. Szwed, and D. Larsson will meet in early January to finalize the questions for the Communications survey.
  - C. Szwed asked if anyone saw the Solar Savings figure on the Town Hall marquee board. C. Wyse said she DID see it after the elections, but nobody was sure how long it was up. C. Szwed regretted that she didn't also ask Nikky to post it on social

media. We thought maybe J. Zullo could write a blurb about solar savings for social media that would also honor John Post.

- The above conversation led to a great idea by B. Carr, which is for SusLitch to put up a regular post (maybe monthly?) recognizing “visionaries” in the Town. D. Larsson suggested allowing people to make suggestions or turn in nominations so it’s not just up to SusLitch to choose the honorees. C. Wyse commented that this could hopefully inspire others to get involved, plus if we word it as “Sustainable Litchfield would like to recognize \_\_\_\_\_ this month,” then it would help get our Committee’s name out there. We need to figure out the details, such as who would be eligible (historical figures or current townspeople only?), how often we would post, how we would “vet” the nominees, and which Committee member(s) would head this up and write up the posts. Since it needs more discussion, we will put it on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, C. Wyse will ask D. Raap about the idea for her approval.
- America’s 250th Litchfield
  - D. Larsson received an email from Judy at Ripley Conservancy about Topsmead being an organization sponsor for their “America250 Conservation Challenge.” C. Szwed reported that White Memorial had been approached about this too, and explained more about what this initiative entails. We realized collectively that SusLitch could potentially be a sponsor as well, as it only requires submitting at least one event or action that can be added to the Conservation Challenge list that Ripley is compiling. Our event could be the Earth Day trash clean-up (plus any other public programs we host next year, such as an invasive species or road salt presentation). D. Larsson is going to respond to Judy and let her know that SusLitch is interested in participating/sponsoring.
- New Business
  - Confirm meeting dates and times for 2026 - Sticking with 2nd Tuesday of the month; D. Larsson will turn those dates into Lisa Losee.
- Adjournment and next meeting date
  - Next meeting is Jan. 13 at the Bantam Annex.
  - Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Szwed, Secretary