

Sustainable Litchfield Committee



Regular Meeting

3:30 pm Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Bantam Annex

MINUTES

- Call to Order: 3:33pm
 - In attendance: Cathleen Wyse, Daniela Larsson, Barbara Carr, Dean Birdsall
- Approve 3/10/2026 minutes
 - D. Birdsall motioned to approve. C. Wyse seconded. All in favor
- New Actions Updates – committee initiatives

Motion made by the group to incorporate the notes from the June 9th meeting to bring context to actions that are in progress. All were in favor.

- Bantam Watershed Coalition – Dean provided an update on progress and initiatives. The process of assessing the watershed is starting with Litchfield Land Trust Properties. This program is meant to be educational for property owners to do a better job of stewarding their property using a pledge to signify commitment. On an actional basis, work is underway to collect data on phosphorus / nitrogen loads in our waterways. Meetings are underway with partners – Woodridge Lake, Litchfield Country Club etc. Other key points in Dean's update – the group is very motivated, work is happening to map riparian areas, leverage grant monies and educate. Down the road this effort can be a framework for other communities to follow. The Litchfield community center will be holding an educational forum with the Litchfield conservation commission in conjunction with the Bantam Watershed Community.
- Dean provided an update on the Invasives Species. The Working Group has been established but their meetings are dealing with low attendance and needs to have engagement with the Public Works Department to get traction.
- Dean provided an update on the Waste Reduction Committee and handed out their flyer to attendees of this meeting. They are moving out on several fronts. A website has been established that details how an individual can reduce their footprint in generating trash. The Litchfield Community Center shared this flyer to their mailing audience as part of the effort to spread the word.
- Daniela met with the summer intern from Sustainable Ct. We do not know if Jeff Zullo connected with her to update our submission for the Solar projects completed.

- Read the results of the Litchfield Communications Survey. The Town of Litchfield monthly email newsletter was the source most used by 85 respondents, with VisitLitchfieldCT and municipal calendar as 2nd and 3rd. But, there were also comments stating that the newsletter could be improved and reach more people. We decided the Communications Subcommittee should meet with Denise and tell her we want to focus on making the newsletter more of the “go-to” source for all town events and announcements, if possible. Also hoping we can help with a marketing campaign that encourages signing up for the newsletter to build that base. Is the VisitLitch calendar linked in that newsletter? Can nonprofits send their flyers to be included in the newsletter (or have access to a page where they can upload themselves)? CS also agreed to make a graphic that shows the results of the survey.
- White Memorial is holding an event focusing on Rodenticide Poisoning. This topic started conversation on the communication within the town and how to better inform the town of topics such as this. A discussion on the The Goshen News – which seems to have topics that cover the northwest corner and whether that may also be a venue to explore.

New Business

Town Involvement.

The group recognized that we are operating in a vacuum and need some guidance from leadership to understand priorities.

The following are items we have identified

- Invasives
- Communication
- Electrification of small maintenance equipment in the public works department
- Green snow training for the town and subsequently public
- Solar at entities that receive town funding, e.g. (Bantam Fire Dept, Litchfield Fire Dept etc)

Daniela will arrange a meeting with Denise to get her feedback and any additional items that we should be considering.

- **Adjournment and next meeting date**
 - Next meeting is Sept 8th at 3:30pm in the Bantam Annex.
 - Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Carr