Sustainable Litchfield Committee Meeting
3:30 pm, Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Remote Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Call to Order at 3:33pm
Present: Dean Birdsall, John Post, Diane Field, Jeff Zullo, Margaret Hunt, Raz Alexe, Ben Buck, James Keithan, Carrie Szwed, with 1st Selectwoman Denise Raap as Guest/Zoom Host. Absent: John Morosani (Ben Buck stepping in as voting member in John M.’s absence)

Approval of 3/23/21 Minutes: Jeff motioned to approve. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: none

Recap Bronze Submission
Our application was submitted to Sustainable CT today for bronze certification! We had a bit of a hold-up with the C-PACE agreement, but everything got submitted in time ON the due date. According to the Submission Summary, we submitted a total of 280 points in 24 Action Items, representing all Categories. These numbers are slightly off from our Action Tracker, but either way, we easily meet the minimum qualifications. We should find out by the end of May if Sustainable CT awards us with bronze certification.

Silver Action Tracker
• Submission for Silver Certification is in late August
• Zero in on Actions viable for August submission - Everybody take a look at the Action Tracker and identify at least 2 Actions in each Category that we could feasibly accomplish for Silver submission.
• Which bronze points carry forward - We’re not sure exactly which points from bronze submission will count towards our Silver submission, so John P. is going to invite Jessica from SusCT to our next meeting on May 4 to help clarify for us.

Building Sustainable Litchfield Brand
• Logo Contest Update – The Logo Selection Team voted on one submission that they liked best, although they agreed it needs some modifications. They will send their feedback to the designer and give him until their April 20 meeting to resubmit. If approved at that meeting, Margaret will show the design to the Sustainable Litchfield Committee at our May 4 meeting, and from there, the design will be “released” to the public.
• New Staff Position at SusCT – Communications Manager, who can help us promote what we’re doing locally. We’ll need to figure out how we can “capture” some of this person’s time.
• Take Photographs – We need to start documenting our work so that we can build a media library that the Communications Manager can use in statewide media (and we can use ourselves).
• Other Ideas
  o We should meet with Lindsay Turner and Will Neary from the EDC to make sure they are aware of what SusLitch is doing. These two are heading up a marketing campaign for the town.
  o It will be very important for us to design a campaign of our own to announce our bronze certification and to communicate that SusLitch is about putting into motion tangible actions for community improvement (not just chasing points!) and working with many partners in a “ground-up” effort.

New Business
• Litchfield Beautification Committee – John P. looked over Actions to see if there are any the LBC could help out with. He identified 3.12.2 – Creating a Pollinator Garden – and 3.10.2a – Removing and Managing Invasive Species. Denise thought, of those two, the LBC would more likely be willing to work on creating Pollinator Gardens. We discussed the idea of putting planters and/or designating garden space at one or both of the Community Fields.
• SusCT Fellow – Another Fellow will be assigned to help us, starting in June.
• No Mow May – Nationwide initiative to refrain from mowing grass in the month of May so that flowers can bloom, which attract and feed pollinators. Just be aware that tall grasses can sometimes lead to increased tick abundance.

Announcements
• An Equity Statement Writing Team has formed and met twice remotely. The Team has shared many resources with one another and are learning more about our very important “charge.”
• Jeff announced that, with the addition of a couple other solar projects in the works, Litchfield’s municipal energy use will soon be 85% covered by renewable sources!
• The next SusLitch meeting will be on May 4 and it will be in-person! All of us will be vaccinated and in the “safe zone” by then. Location TBD. We might still need to have a computer handy so that Jessica can call in remotely.

Adjournment: Ben Buck motioned to adjourn. Dean Birdsall seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Szwed
Secretary

John Post, Chair