Sustainable Litchfield Committee Meeting
3:30 pm, Tuesday, May 4, 2021
IN-PERSON meeting at Litchfield Firehouse

MINUTES

Call to Order at 3:37 pm
Present: Dean Birdsall, Diane Field, Jeff Zullo, Margaret Hunt, Ben Buck, Carrie Szwed, with 1st Selectwoman Denise Raap and Bill Jones from the Community Greenway as guests. Absent: John Post on extended leave (Ben Buck stepping in as voting member in John’s absence), James Keithan, Raz Alexe

Approval of 4/6/21 Minutes: Margaret motioned to approve. Ben seconded. Motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Bill Jones from Litchfield Community Greenway gave us an update on that organization’s efforts and how they tie into SusCT certification. Much of what they're doing now can be used to fulfill Action 6.1.6 – Implement Complete Streets. Bill has already written up a document that can be used for the submission process. Their two biggest projects right now are 1) getting crosswalks installed where the Greenway crosses busier streets and equipping those crosswalks with solar-powered blinking caution lights, and 2) installing a Boardwalk along the section of Bissell Rd. that the Greenway follows. Funding for both of these projects was provided, in part, by the matching grant given by SusCT.

Silver Action Tracker

- Special Guest Jessica LeClair from SusCT zoomed in so we could ask her questions about silver certification. She gave us lots of good news! All of the points accepted for bronze submission will carry over for silver certification. For example, if all of our 285 points from Bronze get accepted, then we only need to submit 115 more points for achieve the 400 points necessary for Silver. We do NOT need to have a submission from every Category for Silver; we already completed that requirement when we did Bronze. Our Equity Toolkit Project for Bronze WAS accepted, so now we only have to do 2 more Equity Toolkits for Silver. If we want to complete any remaining points for Actions we already worked on for Bronze, we just need to email info@sustainablect.org to “unlock” those Actions so that we can add to them. She could not tell us yet if our Bronze submission will be accepted in full, but she did hint that “we are doing great and Silver is definitely attainable for us.” All great news!
- Action Tracker: Now that we have clarification from Jessica, we each need to take a close look at our Silver Action Tracker and see which points we want to prioritize moving forward, knowing that we may only need about 200 more points (including our usual buffer) and that we don’t need Actions in every Category. The Equity Toolkits projects we are aiming to submit for Silver are the Facilities Review and Broadband Survey. Jeff will be in charge of the actual submission for Facilities and
John M. will handle Broadband. It looks like the Equity Statement might not be finished by Aug. The writing team really does not want to rush the process. Perhaps we save it for Gold, if that becomes an option.

- Action Categories anticipated to present challenges, #10 and 11: Not an issue now that we know we don’t need an Action from every Category! That being said, Diane said we have potential to submit 10.1.2, working with Michael Lyn, and Jeff said he thinks 11.2.3 should be good to go too.

**Building Sustainable Litchfield Brand**

- Logo Contest Update: The final logo was not quite ready yet, but should be by next week, at which point Margaret will share the design and reveal the artist. We need to make sure that the SusLitch “brand” is compatible with the Litchfield “brand” that the Marketing subgroup of the EDC is developing. Denise will set up a meeting with Lindsay Turner, Will Neary, and Doug Clement from EDC (which Margaret and Ben will also attend) before the EDC general meeting on May 26 to make sure they are aware of our efforts and our desire to meld our branding. Denise will let Cleve Fuessenich (also EDC) know that we’re doing this. Jeff will also see if some of us can attend that general EDC meeting on the 26th.

- Propose a dedicated SusLitch page on new website: We briefly perused the website and thought that there were several possible places our page link could go. Denise suggested it becomes a button under “Shortcuts.” It could also go in one of the menus under the “Life” tab. Jeff thought it could possibly go under “Resident Resources.” No final decision was made. We will also want to publish a press release on receiving Bronze, which will become an article under “Latest News.”

**New Business**

- Margaret invited to new SusCT Fellow, through Jessica, to our next meeting on June 1. It will be their first day on the job, but Jess will try to set that up.

- After we hear word about our Bronze certification in late May, we need to immediately start looking at the Silver Action Tracker and be ready to prioritize Actions at our June 1st meeting.

**Announcements**

- LHS’s AP Enviro Class, led by Dean, held a very successful Earth Day event, despite the very cold and windy weather that day. More than 80 student volunteers participated in projects such as clean-up and invasive species removal.

- That same class is selling reusable water bottles for $5 each. Dean will bring some to our next meeting.

- The next SusLitch meeting will be on June 1 and it will be in-person again at the Litchfield Firehouse.

**Adjournment:** John M. motioned to adjourn. Jeff seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5pm.
Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Szwed
Secretary

DA Birdsall
Dean Birdsall
Vice Chairman