

# Sustainable Litchfield Committee



## Special Meeting

**3:30 pm Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

**Remote Zoom**

### MINUTES

- Call to Order 3:37pm  
Present: John Post, John Morosani, Diane Field, Dean Birdsall, Margaret Hunt, Jeff Zullo, Carrie Szwed, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Denise Raap
- Approve 11/9/21 Minutes – MH motioned, JZ seconded, JM abstained. Motion approved.
- Committee Vacancy, member terms
  - all of the current members' terms expire in March 2022, so we each need to express our interest to Denise if we want to continue serving
  - none of the people we have reached out to in the past few months have accepted to join Committee
  - MH suggested Max MacIntyre – Denise will reach out to him
  - MH also suggested someone from SMART for “cross-pollination” – Dean will ask Jerry for suggestions
- Next steps coordinating with SMART
  - Jerry said main goal right now is reducing trash by 10%, mostly through increased composting; really wants to expand awareness through education and get families to commit to composting
  - Jeff suggested a tax abatement for families that make recycling/composting effort
  - Denise said we also need to incentivize waste for businesses by having them pay for their tipping fees (“pay as you throw”)
  - CS suggested that White Memorial could put a SMART Task Force program in their calendar in order to expand the audience; maybe send special invites to restaurant owners to attend – CS will contact Jerry about setting this up
  - DB is going to speak with his AP Env. Sci. students about ways they can partner with SMART too
  - DF said that Mark McCarthy, a Goshen resident, is very familiar with a successful recycling/composting campaign in Westchester County and has some suggestions about how our Town can market our program – DF is going to see if he can be on our agenda for next meeting
- Sustainable Litchfield Community Awareness and Celebration Event – will table this until our next meeting on Feb. 1 to see how COVID is trending

- In the meantime, JP will look back at his notes regarding our initial Launch planning and see if we can resurrect some of those ideas.
  - Earth Day – Friday, April 22
  - Communications and Materials
  - Activities and Venue(s)
  - Partners
- Each Committee Member (or small team) report on their identified key new community actions
  - One of main goals will be to work towards the Climate Leadership designation with Sus CT – DB is going to send the Committee more info on this
  - total point potential for renewable energy at schools is, unfortunately, capped as of right now according to Jessica
  - DB would like to focus on invasive species removal – MH is interested in teaming up with this
  - MH mentioned the homelessness Action Item; DR would like to see the Town establish some sort of policy to support and relocate displaced townspeople – MH would like to work with her on this
  - JP said he will assemble a list of additional potential Actions that we should look at at next meeting
  - JZ will continue to get clarity about the ACEEE Community Energy Challenge – tabling until future meeting
  - DR mentioned an idea she's seen in Norway/Switzerland where the town's Recycling Center "sells" donated items for a small cost to help cover the cost of recycling operations – could be an Innovative Action – mixed opinion from the Committee on this
  - CS would like to focus on doing more education programs for the community, including at the celebration event
- Presentations to key partners
  - Reach out to existing partners to ask them to participate in our celebration event in April
  - Broaden SusLitch efforts to reach new partners as well
    - Town Departments – some may be vaguely aware of SusCT, but they don't know how they can "engage" with the effort - we could educate them and suggest Actions
    - Schools
    - Others?
  - Many groups/entities still might not want to "engage" right now because of Covid situation, but that could improve significantly by March, so best to table our outreach to them until then; in the meantime, we could still formulate a plan as a Committee on HOW to reach out to them
- Adjournment and next meeting date
  - Next meeting will be Feb. 1 over Zoom
  - JZ motioned to adjourn meeting at 4:47pm; JM seconded

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Szwed, Secretary