

Sustainable Litchfield Committee



Special Meeting

3:30 pm Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Litchfield Fire House

MINUTES

- Call to Order: 3:35pm
In attendance: Dean Birdsall, Keetu Winter, James Keithan, Jeff Zullo, Diane Field, Carrie Szwed, Cathleen Strobel, Guest: 1st Selectman Denise Raap
- Approve 4/4/23 minutes. J. Zullo motioned to approve. C. Strobel seconded. All in favor.
- Earth Day debrief
 - Assess and identify areas for improvement.
 - M. Hunt sent in comments saying 1) LCC was good place to have it, 2) good to ask everyone to make their booth interactive, 3) good to team up with clean-up event, 4) good to have donated items to give away, 5) need to make more of a display to promote SusLitch, 6) still not sure how much social media worked
 - Attendance was around 200, which is about double last year's attendance
 - J. Zullo suggested a more formal start, perhaps with a guest speaker to introduce SusCT and what we do
 - We all agreed that having the activities for kids was really good – examples: LCC doing fairy houses, LHS doing recycled crafts, LLT giving out seeds, Rivers Alliance showing watershed table, etc.
 - We all agreed that we should do it next year and make it an annual event
 - C. Strobel commented that people were confused about who SusLitch was vs. Task Force, so we definitely need to define and promote ourselves more
 - D. Birdsall commented that some logistics needed to be worked out with the voucher process, and that we need better communication between parties
 - Change format of the flyer to the top being Clean-up and the bottom being the festival, as opposed to the left/right equal billing

- Fell short on music, so try to book high school band next year or some other act
- Put a sign over at Community Pavilion to encourage people to come over
- Schedule in some marquee activities and/or presentations that we can advertise ahead of time
- Contact Bill Davenport (4H) and others if we want to have more live animals – only had White Memorial's box turtle this year bc the owl was too stressed and Ripley did not end up bringing any animals
- Think about Arethusa property as a possible location in the future?
- Might need to use more of our budget to get more food options, pay for presenters/band, etc.

- Climate Leader status and next steps
 - Turns out our climate leader application was incomplete, but D. Field came through in a big way and got it turned in JUST under the wire
 - Jessica LeClair sent an email that we are now a bronze-certified SolSmart community
 - still waiting to hear about whether we received the Climate Leader designation
- Gold certification requirement review
 - Goal is to submit gold certification application for the April 2024 submission deadline
 - Need a total of 750 points for gold, and we currently have 500
 - Suggested Actions for community enhancement
 - J. Zullo will continue working on Category 7
 - D. Birdsall will continue working on Category 3
 - C. Szwed can work on Category 12
 - D. Field will continue working on Category 7 (SolSmart Silver certification)
 - At our next meeting, we will organize ourselves on the Action Tracker and figure out which specific Actions to pursue for Gold certification.
 - We also need to look at tweaking some of our previously submitted Actions that weren't accepted.
- Committee vacancy
 - There is only one alternate vacancy left to fill on our Committee; D. Birdsall said he spoke to Ben Buck about re-joining (and Ben is thinking about it).
- Grant opportunities
 - If we choose to pursue climate resiliency as one of our Actions, there is a CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund that we should look into (see Minutes from 4/4/23 for picture of grant opportunity)

- New Business
 - J. Zullo reported that the solar array at WPCA has been approved.
 - D. Birdsall is going to work on officially changing the location of our meetings from the Litchfield Firehouse to the Bantam Annex.
 - D. Raap reported on a SusCT event happening on June 1, 2023 – Spring into Summer Celebration – that we are all invited to.
- Adjournment and next meeting date:
 - Next meeting will be on June 6, 2023 at the Bantam Annex instead of the Litchfield Firehouse
 - J. Zullo motioned to adjourn; C. Strobel seconded; all in favor. Adjourned at 4:41pm.