

Sustainable Litchfield Committee



Regular Meeting

3:30 pm Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Bantam Annex

MINUTES

- Call to Order
- 3:38 pm

In attendance: Jeff Zullo, Diane Field, Daniela Larsson, Dean Birdsall, Carrie Szwed (joined later); 1st Selectman Denise Raap as Guest

- Approve 7/11/23 minutes
- Motion to approve by J. Zullo. Seconded by D. Field. All in favor.
- Gold certification requirement review
 - Action Teams provide updates
 - D. Larson and K. Winter will partner with the Visit CT website to complete Action 2.3.1
 - We will NOT be doing Action 5.1c because it requires too much work, so it needs to be taken off the Action Tracker.
 - D. Birdsall reported that G. Geci is receptive to working with him on Category 9 – strategic materials management
 - D. Birdsall also reported that he plans to work on an invasive species education program, but has not gotten to it yet. D. Larsson will help.
 - J. Zullo asked D. Field for help on making the second phase of the town-wide broadband initiative an equity project (Category #1) and Innovative Action (#13).
 - Ryan (our Sustainable CT fellow) set up a gold certification spreadsheet for us, which D. Birdsall emailed to all of us during the meeting. According to Ryan's chart, we only have 345 points from previous certifications that we can roll over into gold. This is much less than the number he gave us at our last meeting.

We're unclear whether that 345 points includes our Climate Leader Designation. D. Field is going to analyze Ryan's chart and contact him with any questions, and possibly ask Jessica LeClair at SusCT.

- C. Szwed reported that she reached out to M. Capello and E. Kennedy with Social Services about both the Homelessness Category (#12) and the after-school program. They have not responded yet, so C. Szwed will ask again after summer and request an in-person meeting with them. D. Field will join in that meeting as well. C. Szwed expressed a concern that the after-school program might be too far along in development to use as an Equity project, but we'll discuss that with M. Capello/E. Kennedy when we meet.

- C. Szwed mentioned the idea of taking on some bear safety initiatives through SusLitch. After some discussion about possible town ordinances and incentive programs, we agreed that the best first step is an education campaign that discourages people from putting out birdfeeders or offering any other sources of food on our properties during bears' active months (April – Nov), including in our trash cans. While this information is frequently put out by CT DEEP, it might be good to see it coming from local entities.

- D. Field brought up whether she should pursue the second phase of SolSmart certification. Town officials J. Worthington and S. Musselman would need to go through specific **Solar Permitting and Inspection training** as part of the requirement. D. Field is going to look further into the SolSmart requirements and see if it is feasible to continue.

- Agree on timeline for strategic mosaic of Actions

- Because there is confusion about how many points we actually need for gold certification, we need to hold off on creating a timeline until we figure this out.

- New Business

- None

- Adjournment

- 4:20 pm. C. Szwed motioned to approve. D. Field seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Szwed, Secretary