



Deep River SustainableCT Committee

Agenda

Where: Deep River Town Hall

When: Thursday February 8, 2024 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll call

Attendees: Jeff Gross, Nancy McGee, Lenore Grunko (via Zoom), Tommy Groth, Jim Lockhart, Katherine David

Guests: Tony Bolduc Planning and Zoning; Alison Sloane, EDC

4. Agenda

1. Upcoming TRI- TOWN Sustainable meeting on Feb. 21

Might need to be rescheduled because of Region 4 tri-town meeting with Region 4 Board vote. Important to bring initiatives that can be performed on a Sustainable joint basis.

2. Region 4 Food scrap progress

School Food Scraps: Collection bin are in place but non-compliant food items are being deposited, without effective coaching. Ideas for education/remediation:

- Engage students as monitors, perhaps as public service project, or possibly Environmental club?
- Volunteers to mentor during lunch hour - -perhaps monthly?
- Group discussions
- Visual aid / instructional posters - what's in/what's out

3. Creation of Transfer Station Advisory Committee is in progress. Diverse skills are needed, including engineering experience. Many improvements will be needed in the coming years, including capping the trash area and redesigning the flow of traffic.
4. CT Sustainable SILVER Actions: April deadline is quickly approaching. Lenore is busy registering new members of the Sustainable committee on the Sustainable website. We probably need a working session to assess the work required to submit for Silver in this short timeframe.
5. Air quality- Jeff proposes adding a low-cost air quality monitor in Deep River, and potentially in the Tri-Towns, which will give residents way to check local PM2.5 particulate matter levels. The Tri-Town area is a totally unmonitored part of Connecticut, with Madison and New London being the closest official monitors operated by the State of Connecticut. Public education sessions could also be organized, featuring guest experts. Alison Sloane expressed interest on behalf of Pandemonium.
6. New Business

Tony Balduc representing Planning and Zoning encouraged us to complete the survey for the Deep River Pan of Conservation and Development. He also encouraged us to attend their meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 6 p.m., with next meeting March 3rd.

Alison Sloane representing EDC as well as Pandemonium Rainforest. She discussed progress on the new Geodesic dome to be venue for classes on recycling; speakers such as Audabon, Biodiversity, The dome will hold approximately 40 audience members. Sustainable committee is free to apply to use the dome as a veno

Food scraps program: the town has negotiated a reduced price for transport. The mix of allowable bags has also changed – bio bags are now preferred.

Nancy mentioned that Bob Jenkins suggested we bring a bench to the transfer station to draw attention to what the town has earned for recycling thin plastics. We plan to bring one up temporarily and position it next to the bin and bulletin board.

Jeff mentioned that Maine and Alaska have sponsored successful state-wide Heat Pump campaigns, which the Connecticut legislature is being asked to replicate, leveraging Federal IRA incentives. This might also be a topic for the Tri-Town Sustainable discussion.

Tom shared that he is no longer getting the food waste reports from Blue Earth. He will reach out to them and will update the sign at the TS regarding plastic and food waste

Nancy shared that there is an article in the Courant regarding pilot programs in CT regarding bottle/can recycling redemption. She will find the article and share it. Lenore will reach out to her contacts in DEEP to see if there are towns being selected for the pilot.

6. Adjournment