



SustainableCT Deep River Committee Meeting

Meeting held online using Zoom

Date: Friday August 20, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Attendance

Committee Members:

Carol Jones (Chair), Molly Flueckiger, Jeff Gross, Jerry Richard, Lenore Grunko,

Guests:

Sofia DiNatale (2021 SustainableCT Fellow)

Call to Order 9:02 AM

SustainableCT 2021 Fellows Project

Fellow Sofia DiNatale presented the Digital Media Training Pamphlet she worked on this summer in conjunction with Carol Jones and Molly Flueckiger. The pamphlet describes best practices for creating accessible digital content for persons with disabilities on the web and social media. The pamphlet will be included in Action 8.2 and represents the Optimize for Equity requirement for the Action. Jeff Gross suggested the committee consider including a Style Guide as part of the deliverables for Action 8.2. Carol Jones said she shares guidelines with Parks and Recreation staff for posting content on social media but the town does not have a social media policy. The committee will discuss how to share the pamphlet with elected officials, town employees, and volunteers this fall.

Committee Secretary and Filing Requirements

- Lenore Grunko nominated Molly Flueckiger to be the committee Secretary.
- The motion was seconded by Jerry Richard.
- The motion passed 5-0.
- Molly Flueckiger will be responsible for filing the Committee's Meeting Agendas and Meeting Minutes with the Town Clerk.

Action 9.4 Develop a Food Waste Prevention Campaign or Food Scraps

Recovery Campaign or Program

- Food scrap collection will start on September 26, 2021 at the Deep River Transfer Station.
- Lenore Grunko is coordinating the working with stake holders in Chester and Deep River to develop a sticker system to track program usage. The program is free for Deep River and Chester residents.
- A cement pad will be poured for the food scrap collection container at the Deep River Transfer Station.
- Lenore Grunko will staff a table at Deep River Family Day to share information about the new program with residents. Lenore has coordinated with SustainableCT to borrow a banner for the Family Day table. Lenore plans to reach out to the schools to recruit student volunteers to spread the word about the food scrap program on Family Day and beyond.

Action 8.1 Hold A Sustainability Event | The Tri-town DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Book Club

- The first Tri-Town DEI Book Club meeting will be held on Wednesday September 22 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Deep River Library, and will feature a discussion about the book *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. The meeting will be held outdoors, if weather permits, and is limited to 16 participants to comply with Covid restrictions. Registration is almost full. Participants will need to bring their own folding chair to the first meeting.
- Subsequent monthly meetings may be held at the Essex and Chester Libraries. Holding evening events at either the Essex and Chester libraries will cost money because the meeting will be held outside of normal operating hours and require funding for staff. Lenore Grunko is working with her counterparts in Essex and Chester to explore alternative locations because the book club does not have any funding.

Invasive Species Management

- Jeff Gross is coordinating with First Selectman Angus McDonald to organize a Volunteer Invasive Species Clean Up Day this Fall and discuss long term plans to manage invasive species with the Board of Selectman. Jeff is also coordinating with Alan Mizejeski, Deep River Tree Warden, and Ann Courcy, Vice President of the Deep River Land Trust, about the Clean up Day issues including liability associated with holding the event.

Watershed / Storm Water

- Jeff Gross provided an update about the state's new legislation regarding storm water.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- Jeff Gross provided an update on potential sites for electric vehicle charging stations in Deep River. Sites near the Main St. business district are being considered. Other possible locations were mentioned- schools and factories were two.

Action 7.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Usage

- Jerry Richards has sent a draft report of the town's energy consumption to the First Selectman for review. After the First Selectman reviews the report Jerry will send it to a resource at UCONN to get a complete picture of the town's energy use. When the complete benchmark report is complete Jerry will coordinate with stakeholders to develop an energy strategy for the town including ways to reduce energy consumption and opportunities for alternative energy.

Solar Panels

- Jeff Gross provided an update about discussions about installing new solar panels in town.

Family Day 2021

- Pet Parade
 - Carol Jones and Lenore Grunko volunteered to organize The Family Day Pet Parade as Pet's Choice is holding a pet photo contest instead of the parade this year. They are considering sustainable themes for the parade.
- SustainableCT Table
 - (see above for Food Scrap collection promotion)
 - Carol Jones will have bring a SustainableCT Committee flyer to hand out at Family Day to raise awareness about the committee and recruit new members. We are also looking for more committee members and hope to attract people who come to the table.

Committee Building

- The Committee is not prepared to apply for SustainableCT certification credit on any Action by the Tuesday August 24, 2021 deadline.
- Lenore Grunko would like to review the list of all SustainableCT Actions to target an action in each of the 13 categories for the 2022 certification cycle. Carol Jones will modify the SustainableCT Action spreadsheet to highlight opportunities for new Actions in categories where Actions are not yet underway. Molly Flueckiger will prepare a status report listing all of the Actions the Committee is currently working on for the September meeting.
- Molly Flueckiger will follow up with Elizabeth McGee about opportunities to collaborate and take advantage of the free Equity Coaching offered by SustainableCT. Possible work might include increase SustainableCT awareness in town, help building a more robust SustainableCT Committee, or preparing for filing the paperwork for 2022 certification cycle.

Action 8.2 Provide Effective Community Communications

- Molly Flueckiger will submit a draft online Communications Inventory questionnaire for Carol to review. The committee will send out links to the

questionnaire to all town stakeholder to gather information for the Communications Inventory.

Next Meeting: Friday September 17 9:00 AM

Adjournment: 10:30 AM