

Town of Darien
Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023-
Meeting Held Virtually *Via* “GoToMeeting”

Members Present: Carolyn Bayne, Kathy Finnegan, Christine LaJaunie, Cliff vanVoorhees, Amanda Craig, Dan Dolcetti, Mohan Ganadal and, *ex-officio*, Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works.

Also Present: Susan Cameron, Luz Elena Bueno

12:03 pm Call to Order with a quorum

New Member

- Mohan Ganadal has been approved and appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Approve Past Minutes

- Minutes from the February 8th, 2023 meeting were approved with minor modifications.

Updates

- Connecticut passed the mini bottle act in 2022. This legislation places a 5 cent fee on all mini bottles sold in the State of CT with the proceeds being funneled back to the towns to use in waste reduction programs.
 - Darien has received over \$3,000 in fees to date with more payment of \$1,000-\$1,500 expected every 6 months.

Recycling Updates

- USAgain- 73,000 pounds of clothing and textiles were collected last year from the bins at the Recycling Center. We receive 10 cents back per lb and have received \$7,300 back to the town.
- Food Scraps - Over 2 tons of food scraps were diverted from MSW in February which is on par for the last 3 years.

Earth Day Activities

- Carolyn has written an article for Darien Magazine coming out in April highlighting the food scrap program.
- Amanda has set up a food scrap collection and information campaign which is happening at Whole Foods in Darien on Earth Day.
- There is an event at the library promoting food scrap recycling on Earth Day.

- The Darien Nature Center is hosting a Spring into Nature event on Earth Day (April 22); Carolyn will set up a table focused on food scrap recycling/composting.
- Carolyn and Kathy are hosting a recycling talk at the Darien library on April 18th at 10AM.

Swap Shop

- The Swap shop is reopening on 4/3. All volunteers will sign agreements with the town listing rules and regulations and complete training.
 - Dan Dolcetti confirmed to the Committee that he has never profited from the swap shop in any form.

Focus in 2023

Expand food scrap recycling,
Investigate leaf blower ordinance,
Sustainability events,
Collaborate with schools,
EV infrastructure information/funding

1:01 pm Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Christine LaJaunie, Secretary