

DARIEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

MINUTES for meeting on 10 May 2023

Called to order at 12:10 with a quorum present

This meeting was held via "GoToMeeting."

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Finnegan, Mohan Ganadal, Christine LaJaunie, Dan Dolcetti, and Cliff van Voorhees

Members Absent: Carolyn Bayne and Amanda Craig

Also present: Tony Campanella, Department of Public Works.

Approve prior meeting's minutes: Tabled due to missing members.

1. **Leaf Blowers:** The committee had a discussion about leaf blowers and what its role should be with respect to the environmental issues they, and other gas-powered lawn equipment, raise.

It was decided that we should gather information about the issues and also about what other towns are doing. Then undertake an education campaign and formulate a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

We agreed the following assignments for the next meeting:

- a. Prepare a note on the health issues: Cliff
- b. Prepare a note on what other towns are doing: Kathy
- c. Prepare a note on the emissions: Mohan

It was also suggested that we need to gather information about non-gas-powered equipment that is on the market, but no assignment was made.

2. **Public School food waste:** Cliff reported that he had followed up with another email to Dr Addley and a call to his office, but has yet to receive a reply. Kathy sent the same request to the facilities person, and she also has not had a reply.

Dan said that he would approach the chairman of the Board of Ed.

Carolyn has a PTA connection at Royle, and we need to pursue that connection, too.

Cliff will send to the committee his note to Dr. Addley.

3. **EV update:** Mohan reported that the EV conversation is advancing, but at a pretty high level. It has three pieces: first is the town's fleet of vehicles; second is the EV infrastructure; third, is there something we can do to incent action for at least a trial. We need to put together a comprehensive proposal that addresses all three pieces. It would explain, among other things, how we could transition at least part of our fleet to EV. They are also looking at grants and funding available to help with the transition. Tony and Mohan are working together to prepare the proposal. Before we buy another replacement gas powered vehicle, there should be a justification for not going EV.

Tony provided a summery of what he has been doing for the past couple of years with respect to getting a handle on this topic. For him to progress further, we need a clear goal: fleet only? Chargers available to the public? One vehicle within six months?

Do we have anyone in the Board of Ed working on EV's? Kevin Morette, Director of Facilities is our target.

4. **Sound Waters in Stamford: Is offering to show how to teach about climate, the environment and sustainability in our school curricula.**
5. **Public comment:** Time was provided for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM

Respectfully submitted, 5/31/2023

Cliff van Voorhees, Secretary pro tem