

Town of Darien
Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Regular Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2023

Meeting Held Virtually *Via* “GoToMeeting”

Members Present: Carolyn Bayne, Kathy Finnegan, Cliff vanVoorhees, Christine LaJaunie, Dan Dolcetti

Members Absent: Amanda Craig and Mohan Ganadal

Also Present: Ed Gentile (Director of Public Works) , Tony Campanella (Public Works)

12:04 pm Call to Order with a quorum

- **Approve April and May Minutes-** Minute were approved with minor modifications.
- **Earth Day Wrap-up**
 - The Darien Library presentation Carolyn and Kathy gave in April titled “Talking Trash” was recorded and is available on the library's website and we have linked it on our social media accounts.
 - At Whole Foods there is a display of a complete food waste recycling kit with a sign if any customers are interested in it. WF is setting up a table during the town sidewalk sales and has asked if we are interested in having the kit there to advertise and talk about.
- **Swap Shop**
 - Has been slow. They are sorting and separating items (metal, glass, plastic and cardboard) that are dropped off so there is less waste at the end of the day.
- **Communications News**
 - There are webinars on Sustainable CT’s Youtube page that are chock full of useful information for residents and companies.
 - The Climate Reality Project is also another source of great information.
- **Focus Areas**

Expand food scrap recycling:

- i. Sustainable CT is offering a community match fund grant with an application deadline of August 13th for food waste compost promotion. We are looking at different initiatives for viability for getting an application in, including having a video produced for town residents to inform them of the

program and how it works. Another initiative for a grant is to have residential home hauling of food waste and to subsidize the program for town residents.

Investigate leaf blower ordinance:

- ii. We are sending information to the town on an ordinance and what other towns are doing as well as scientific data on gas powered leaf blowers.

Sustainability events:

Collaboration with schools:

- Dan will be meeting with Duke Dineen, Chairman of the board of Ed, regarding recycling in the schools- he will report back to the committee. We will also bring up EV school buses and the school bus contract with First Student that is coming up soon with the mandatory changeover to electric buses that must happen by 2030.

EV fleets, infrastructure, funding:

- Tony has been doing background work researching and meeting with companies to discuss charging equipment for EVs. Now we will wait on direction from the Town as to what direction we want to go in (ie. chargers for the public, or just the town fleet, etc.)

12:57 pm Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Christine LaJaunie, Secretary