

Town of Darien
Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Regular Meeting Minutes-*DRAFT*****
October 11, 2023
Meeting Held Virtually Via “GoToMeeting”

Members Present: Kathy Finnegan, Carolyn Bayne, Amanda Craig, Mohan Ganadal,

Also present: Tony Campanella, Department of Public Works.

Members Absent: Christine LaJaunie, Dan Dolcetti, and Cliff van Voorhees

12:01pm Call to Order

- **EV fleets, infrastructure, funding**
 - Mohan Ganadal reported on his presentation and meeting with Tony Campanella and Cliff Van Voorhees. There are two distinct components in the architecture of this developing electric vehicle program for the town of Darien:
 - Replace retiring Town vehicles with comparable EV models starting in fiscal year 2025(starting with planning & zoning then moving on to other Town departments and organizations.)
 - Charging Infrastructure Plan- we recommend budgeting \$100K for 4-6 charging stations to be completed before 2025 (target date of September 2024.)
 - Installation and facilitation companies are being worked and locations for these charging stations are being researched.
 - These stations will be financed using Town funds as well as available government subsidies where available.
- **Collaboration with schools/Expand food scrap recycling into schools**
 - Kathy is looking into setting up a meeting with a Board of Ed member to discuss food waste recycling participation in the schools.
 - We will look into applying for grant money through Sustainable CT community match fund for help in this process.
- **Investigate leaf blower ordinance**
 - The noise ordinance that was proposed was referred the the RTM because it would require a Town ordinance
 - We will work to find a way to share all of our documentation on this subject with the committee as well as documentation on what our neighboring communities are doing on this subject.
- **Approve August Minutes**

- Tabled until the next meeting, quorum not met.

- Food Scrap Program
 - The food scrap program started almost 5 years ago in 2018, with over 200 tons of food waste diverted from our municipal waste stream (around 40 tons a year.)
 - Questioning how to increase participation in a town where there are private trash haulers? This is an ongoing issue.
 - There are 5 anaerobic digesters (food waste processing plants) being permitted in CT, more plants will help to increase the economics, public acceptance and participation in food waste recycling.

12:57 pm Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Christine LaJaunie, Secretary