

Sustainable Westport Advisory Team

Regularly Scheduled Meeting December, 05 2019, 7 PM Westport Town Hall, Room 201

Members Present: David Mann(Chair), Pippa Bell Ader, Peter Boyd, Nico Eisenberger, Sara Harris, Dawn Henry, Greg Zola, Tony McDowell, Diana Mashia

Participating Public:

David Mann recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

1. Public Comment –
2. The November 2019 minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
3. Leadership Update:
 - a. David Mann, Chair of Sustainable Westport, will be stepping down from his leadership role, as will Pippa Bell Ader. The contributions of both cannot be adequately described in these notes. Without both of these individuals, the momentum and accomplishments of this entity thus far would not have been possible.
 - b. New Chair Peter Boyd, and new Vice Chair Dawn Henry will continue to evolve and build on the process and leadership of David and Pippa. Their new roles begin January 1st, 2020.
 - c. First Selectman Jim Marpe awarded Pippa Bell Ader a lifetime achievement and recognition award on behalf of the town for her vast contributions of thought leadership, time, effort and fortitude.

Progress by Pillar

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 - a. Inspire Update: Tony McDowell to meet with the Earthplace board to obtain a memo of understanding - draft.
 - b. January 9th will be the next Sustainable Westport meeting held at 7 PM Westport Town Hall, Room 201
 - c. Westport Transit District will be selecting several new Directors.
 - d. The League of Conservation Voters tracks the voting records of members of Congress on environmental issues in its National Environmental Scorecard, a legislative scorecard. It is a valuable resource when deciding which Senators and Representative you choose to vote into office. Visit: <https://scorecard.lcv.org/>
5. LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. Effort to engage community seems most effective based on feedback when a homeowner engages with their neighbors. Several members offered to engage in their hyper-local community to address leaf blower noise and air pollution and offer a better/electric alternative. Consideration should be given to working with other tightly-knit neighborhood groups that already have an active Association and may be willing to consider initiatives like leaf blower changes
- b. Pippa Bell Ader will report back on issues surrounding Bermuda Road.
- c. Composting:
 - i. Implemented in 4 of the 5 elementary schools: Kings Highway Elementary, Saugatuck Elementary, Long Lots Elementary and Greens Farm Elementary.
 - ii. Composting at Bedford, Coleytown and Staples schools are in progress with town and parent support growing.
- d. Earthplace/Nash Pond discussions included materials and resources survey.
- e. Greens Farm Academy is testing 'Tray-less' Lunches as a way of saving resources.
- f. Pippa Bell Ader to refine her survey.
- g. Food Rescue CT was presented to Chartwell, a company that provides food to the school district.
- h. Earthplace and Community Garden are the first partner organizations in the 2020 Food Waste Challenge and will be noted as such on the website.
- i. Peter Ratkiewich investigating Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Program
 - i. Scarsdale visit to pilot Food Scraps program resulted in agreement to try out in Westport. NOTE: Field trips work WELL!

6. CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

- a. Westport Police Department purchased first EV: Telsa Model 3 @ \$52k (vs. \$37k for gas powered). Return-on-investment for the EV was indisputable based on fuel and maintenance savings over the life of the vehicle.
 - i. Now Westport, CT, Freemont, CA, Bargersville, IN & Denver, CO are the only US police districts known to invest in EVs.
- b. Sustainable Westport discussed providing strategic support and guidance to the Westport Transit District prior to budget season.
 - i. Pippa Bell Ader to reach out to Peter Gold for a meeting prior to February to garner support.
- c. Fairfield will be using some electric school buses.
 - i. DATTCO plans to purchase 10 electric school buses over the next five years. Need for an EV hub. Field trip will be planned.

7. AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY

- a. Beta website to be made available for feedback week of Jan 6th.
- b. Social Media:

- i. Sarah Manning, a Westport mother of 4, involved in Long Lots school environmental health will be assisting in social media regarding pollinators, chemicals, etc.
 - ii. Instagram: 13 posts & 926 Followers; Facebook: 15 posts & 697 Followers. LinkTree installed in Insta bio to allow more links to posts.
- c. Sustainable Westport Awards structure presented by Dawn Henry. Next step meeting with tree warden to source local wood for sustainable plaques.
- d. Climate change education:
 - i. Discussion around how to get into schools, perhaps through Climate Reality (Al Gore organization) presentations.
 - ii. Encourage topics incorporated deeper into the Westport Schools curriculum; via Earthplace programs and their newsletter soliciting parent's coordination.

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 9:30 PM.

Next meeting will be held January 9th, 2020 7pm, Town Hall, Room 309