

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 10, 2021**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mr. Hubelbank, Mr. Charles, Ms. Dyer, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Gil-Rodgers
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Ms. Payne, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Rowe, Mr. Hagenbuch, Ms. Matteo
<b>Staff:</b>	Mr. Buell, Ms. Gorra
<b>OTHERS:</b>	Ms. Bennett

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

**Regular Meeting**

**Approval of minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that he would like to begin the meeting by approving the meeting minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting. Ms. Dyer stated that there was a typo on the last page of the document, which listed LSID instead of LISD. A motion was passed to accept these minutes with this amendment.

**Motion:** To accept the amended minutes for the September 8, 2021 meeting minutes with the corrections so noted by Mr. Charles seconded by Ms. Dyer. Passed unanimously.

**Review of Bronze Certification from Sustainable CT.org and Next Steps for Silver Certification**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that Sustainable Ct had sent an email to the Committee which detailed the number of points that the town had gained to become certified through Sustainable Ct. He stated that the town had been given 295 points which was enough to qualify for bronze status, and indicated that he felt that it would be feasible for the town to submit a new application to be given silver status. Following a short discussion of the steps that may be taken to improve the town's certification, Mr. Hubelbank stressed his belief that the Committee should not focus solely on gaining points on Sustainable Ct. He indicated that the focus of this Committee should be on "worthwhile" actions which would benefit the town. Mr. Hubelbank then stated that he had forwarded an email to the Committee which offered details on Community Resiliency Building Workshops which would help communities to better prepare for the challenges of climate change. A short discussion regarding this workshop ensued.

**Discussion of Sustainable Section of the POCD**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that WEC (Washington Environmental Council), had discussed whether or not there should be a separate section of the P.O.C.D. dedicated to Sustainability, or if elements of Sustainability should be included throughout the document. The Committee agreed that Sustainability should have its own chapter, and agreed to suggest edits for the Planning Committee to review. The Committee then discussed the logistics of drafting these edits.

### **Discussion of Committee's Next Actions**

Mr. Hubelbank asked if the Committee had any suggestions for future actions that may be taken by the Committee going forward. Mr. Charles suggested establishing a specific goal for the Committee. Following this, Mr. Charles proposed that the town establish regulations which would lead to the building of “passive homes”. The Committee then discussed the possibility of having LISD regulations put in place. Following this discussion, the Committee considered regenerative agriculture, alternative energy, collaboration between committees within the town, and education.

Mr. Hubelbank stated that the Board of Selectman has begun a conversation with the Zoning Commission regarding regulations relating to affordable housing within Washington.

Ms. Gil-Rodgers stated that she had shared information with the Commission regarding regulations which would enable the town to decide on where electricity used within the town is purchased from, opposed to individual homes making this decision. She indicated that 7 states had passed regulations regarding this.

The Committee discussed better practices for lawn care and indicated that emissions from landscaping equipment have a tremendous impact upon the environment. Further discussion ensued regarding lawn care, and other directions that the Committee may go in regard to sustainable actions, and the importance of implementing sustainability into education within the town.

### **Discussion of Right to Farm Ordinance**

Ms. Dyer stated that she felt the proposed right to farm ordinance would be beneficial to farmers within the Town of Washington because it would reinforce Connecticut’s state statute which protects farmers. She indicated that this ordinance would not offer any additional protections for these farmers, but instead would act as a statement of support for farms within the town. Ms. Gorra read a section of the P.O.C.D. to the Committee that listed goals for the town which would better define and support farming within Washington. Ms. Dyer indicated that the Right to Farm Ordinance was a separate issue to Zoning regulations relating to farming, and stated that both areas should be addressed. Further discussion regarding farms, and regulations relating to farming ensued. Ms. Dyer suggested that Ms. Nichols from the Ct Farm Bureau be invited to a Sustainability Committee meeting. The Committee then discussed the definition of a farm within Washington, and Mr. Hubelbank indicated that more education is likely needed on this subject before any regulations or decisions can be made. The Committee then discussed the need to address Zoning regulations within Washington to allow temporary housing for farmers who need help during their busy seasons.

### **Other Matters to Come Before the Committee**

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the Committee had been sent a meeting calendar for 2022, and a motion was passed to accept these meeting dates.

Motion: To accept the 2022 meeting calendar by Mr. Charles, seconded by Ms. Dyer. Passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dennis Buell

Sustainability Committee Clerk

11-15-2021

