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Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting (Remote)
July 9, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Members Present: Jami Lewchik, Chair; Bayard Faithfull, Vice Chair; Lydia Tedone

Other Attendees: Joe Daly, Recycling Committee Ex-Officio; Nicholas Criscitelli, Planning Commission Ex-Officio; Franklyn Barrueco, Management Specialist; Marc Nelson, Town Manager

Chair Lewchik called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Food Waste Reduction Program Presentation by USA Waste & Recycling Food Waste Specialist Nicholas Malouin

Specialist Malouin gave an overview of what is food waste, how it's processed, potential solutions, and educational programming that USA Waste & Recycling offers. The Committee had various questions regarding single stream recycling, partnerships with other organizations and entities regarding waste and composting, and the group discussed the importance of engaging the youth with this concept early on to facilitate cultural adoption.

Approve Minutes

Member Tedone moved to approve the April 9th minutes as presented. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Vice Chair Faithfull moved to approve the May 7th minutes as presented. Member Tedone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Vice Chair Faithfull moved to accept the June 4th minutes as presented. Chair Lewchik seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

July Newsletter – Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned the importance of establishing a methodology to accurately "count" solar in Simsbury. The Committee discussed various options on how to demonstrate the amount of renewable energy generated and consumed in Simsbury. The Committee discussed the Town's Sustainability Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Member Tedone mentioned the importance of data collection. Vice Chair Faithfull

announced that the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Committee and Simsbury Pollinators group are going to submit future newsletter articles. Specialist Barrueco mentioned that the newsletter was distributed via the Town's News and Announcements on the website and social media pages.

Charrette Planning – Chair Lewchik discussed the goal of putting together a mini roundtable in the Fall to support the business community specifically related to solar energy. Chair Lewchik mentioned the idea of connecting existing solar users to businesses that were curious while also bringing in subject matter experts. Chair Lewchik is going to be communicating with SustainableCT to provide additional information regarding tax rebates and incentives. Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that CT Greenbank has a program (Building Solutions) where the organization leases businesses roofs and puts solar panels on at no cost to the business owner.

Old Business

New England Smart Energy (NESE) – Vice Chair Faithfull reported that on June 15th 7,975 mailers went out to Simsbury households. NESE was at Fitzgeralds from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. on June 26th and tomorrow. They will also be there on July 22nd same time. After sending out the mailers, NESE was expecting fifty (50) returns, as of Monday this week, 103 people have requested Home Energy Assessments (HEA). Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that he has been collaborating with NESE and Simsbury Community Media (SCM) to create a public service announcement (PSA) which will be released shortly.

With the help of Deputy Town Manager Fitzgerald, the Town, subject to Selectmen approval, is applying for a grant to assist with outreach efforts. Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis is scheduled to have a HEA in November. Vice Chair Faithfull and Specialist Barrueco showcased the draft social media graphic they created to track Simsbury HEA progress, which will be updated every month. Vice Chair Faithfull asked about the possibility of a partner company to NESE sending mailers to Town businesses in a similar fashion NESE did with residential households. Manager Nelson said that as long as the partner company demonstrates a collaboration with NESE, and businesses are allowed options and choice, this could be acceptable and he encouraged further discussion regarding this request. Manager Nelson suggested putting the tracker in the newsletter. The Committee further discussed the newsletter.

Simsbury Public Schools Carton Recycling & Food Waste Discussion – Vice Chair Faithfull is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Head of Nutrition Services Bonnie Anderson and Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan. Vice Chair Faithfull discussed the pour-aways, the learning curve, lessons learned over the previous year, and stakeholder buy-in.

Chair(s) Report

Chair Lewchik mentioned the focus of the waste working group and Part 2 (Waste) of the Sustainability Plan. She mentioned collaboration with the Town Manager, Selectmen, and Board of Education. She also mentioned mandatory battery collection per a federal law that becomes

effective January 1, 2027. She also mentioned the importance of proper battery, gas cylinder, and paint disposal. Chair Lewchik suggested further engagement with the Recycling Committee for infographics relating to waste such as mattresses when people move in and out of dorms.

Ex-Officio Reports

Planning Commission - Mr. Criscitelli reported that there is a Planning Commission meeting on July 14th where they will review a proposal modifying the site plan at Dorset Crossing to replace a pharmacy (that was never built) for a car wash. He mentioned that the Zoning Commission will consider this at their July 20th meeting. Both meetings are at the Simsbury Public Library at 7 P.M. Chair Lewchik asked about the different questions for Planning and Zoning. Mr. Criscitelli responded that Planning considers if proposals are in concert with the POCD and Zoning focuses on what is allowable in certain areas per the zoning regulations.

Recycling Committee - Mr. Daly mentioned that the Swap Shoppe is open this Saturday from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. He mentioned his desire for the Recycling Committee to collaborate with SCM. He reported that he is working on the "What's In What's Out". He asked if the Committee looked at building electrical permit inventory to track solar in the Town. The Committee discussed it further.

Town Manager's Office - Manager Nelson reported that the Library Board of Trustees voted down EV chargers at the Simsbury Public Library due to parking concerns. The Board of Selectmen approved pursuing Eversource grants for two (2) EV chargers at Town Hall. He mentioned the 2026 Community Boost Grant application that is before the Selectmen at their meeting next Monday and collaborated with the Board of Education to expand the reach of the Sustainability Committee newsletter.

Manager Nelson reported that he and Superintendent of Public Schools Matt Curtis have signed a draft solar Power Purchase Agreement for Latimer Lane School and Simsbury High School. He mentioned that initial savings are upwards of $50,000. Manager Nelson mentioned that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) currently has two (2) vacancies and is looking for volunteers. Vice Chair Faithfull suggested a collaboration with the EDC on the business solar roundtable/charrette. Manager Nelson concluded mentioning that the Selectmen will also be considering their 2025-2027 Goals at their July 13th meeting.

Adjourn
Chair Lewchik adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklyn Barrueco
Management Specialist