Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting (Remote)
November 5, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Members Present: Jami Lewchik, Chair; Bayard Faithfull, Vice Chair; Brian Burkhart

Other Attendees: Joe Daly, Recycling Committee Liaison; Nicholas Criscitelli, Planning Commission Liaison; Franklyn Barrueco, Management Specialist

Chair Lewchik called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Solar Map+ Presentation

Katie Shelton, Associate Director of the Connecticut Green Bank, presented on the Solar MAP+ program for affordable multifamily housing developments and answered questions from the Committee. After a brief discussion, Chair Lewchik moved to recommend that the Town move forward with this program and the Town Manager's Office supply a list of suitable locations. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve October 1, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Burkhart moved to approve the minutes, amended to correct Mr. Burkhart's first name spelling and denote the proper title for Mr. Daly. Chair Lewchik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Submit Annual Report to the Boards of Selectmen and Education

Chair Lewchik provided an overview of the Annual Report. She suggested moving the performance metrics page to the beginning of the document and will message Specialist Barrueco directly with other minor revisions. Chair Lewchik mentioned that the Committee will vote on the 2027 goals at the December meeting and that she will present on this topic at the November 9th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Adopt 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed the proposed meeting dates and times. Vice Chair Faithfull suggested the Committee meet in-person at least once. Specialist Barrueco mentioned that the Committee can always cancel a regular meeting and schedule a special meeting with enough notice. After a brief discussion, Chair Lewchik moved to adopt the schedule as presented. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Joining Charging Smart Campaign

Specialist Barrueco reported on the experience he had attending the October 16th Municipal EV-Readiness Workshop. After a brief discussion, Vice Chair Faithfull moved to recommend that the Town join the Charging Smart campaign to achieve the Bronze designation. Chair Lewchik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Remove Shawn McLaughlin as a Member

After a brief discussion, Chair Lewchik moved to remove Shawn McLaughlin as a member due to his absence from meetings. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve November Newsletter

Vice Chair Faithfull provided an overview of the newsletter. The Committee suggested incorporating the full website domain address of the Sustainability Committee's webpage. Chair Lewchik moved to approve the November newsletter, with that one revision. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Connecticut Green Bank Switch Together Program

Vice Chair Faithfull gave a background on the program. He mentioned that this was discussed at previous meetings. Specialist Barrueco mentioned that it would be preferable if the Town can review and vet the vendor. After a brief discussion, Vice Chair Faithfull moved to recommend that the Town move forward with the Switch Together program. Chair Lewchik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Without objection, Chair Lewchik moved agenda items 5c and 5d up next.

New England Smart Energy (NESE) and Efficient Lighting & Maintenance Inc. (EL&M) Updates

Vice Chair Faithfull reported that one hundred thirty-three (133) people have signed up for Home Energy Assessments and two hundred forty-three (243) have expressed interest. Vice Chair

Faithfull mentioned that EL&M will be sending correspondence out in early November to all business and commercial property owners.
Vice Chair Faithfull reported that the Town, collaborating with Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald, has secured a $4,900 grant to support NESE and EL&M in publicity work related to promotions, social media, and mailings. Chair Lewchik moved to recommend that the Town use the grant funds to promote NESE and EL&M Simsbury program marketing. Vice Chair Faithfull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Faithfull adjourned the meeting.

Discuss Sustainability Plan Part 2 (Waste) Progress and Next Steps

Chair Lewchik mentioned that Joe Daly and Jen Weymouth from the Recycling Committee worked with her on the Sustainability Plan Part Two: Waste and reported that there is a meeting with the Town Manager and the Director Public Works scheduled for later November. She spoke about moving from goals to action, targeting Selectmen endorsement in early 2027, and alluded to a sustainability themed business workshop with the Economic Development Commission next year. Mr. Daly asked for the Town transfer station contract and Specialist Barrueco said he will deliver.

Ex-Officio Reports

Town Manager's Office: Specialist Barrueco reported that he and Town Manager Nelson enjoyed the Municipal EV Readiness Workshop, thanked the Committee for their support, and that he will complete the Charging Smart initial paperwork. Specialist Barrueco asked for the recycling sticker for USA Waste and Mr. Daly said he will provide. The Town Manager's Office is still reviewing the draft Solar United Neighbors Switch Together Memorandum of Understanding.

Planning Commission: Mr. Criscitelli said that there were no updates to report.

Recycling Committee: Mr. Daly reported that the Swap Shoppe is closed for the season. He mentioned discussing the 2027 Sustainability Fair at an upcoming meeting.

Adjourn
Chair Lewchik adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.