

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Video Conference
February 9, 2022

Members present: Lynn Stoddard, Susannah Everett, Katie Fratoni, Al Fratoni, Charles Ausburger, Matt Lisy, Elaina Hancock, Josh Walters, Virginia Walton (staff)

Representatives in attendance: Agriculture Committee – Chris Kueffner, Terry Wollen; Bike Mansfield – Lon Hultgren; Board of Education – Kathy Ward, Jeannette Picard; Conservation Commission – Michael Soares, Erin King, Chad Rittenhouse, Miranda Davis; Human Rights Commission – Glenn Mitoma; Library Advisory Board – Janet Dauphin; Parks and Natural Resources Committee – Jim Morrow; Planning and Zoning Commission – Paul Aho; Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Julie Sherman, Ted Busky, Rita Kornblum, Susanna Bekman, Berdakh Utermuratov; Town Council – Brian Coleman; Kelti Johnson (UConn journalism student)

Staff in attendance: Ryan Aylesworth, John Carrington, Linda Painter, Kelly Lyman, Margaret Chatey, Leslie McDonough, Pat Schneider, Cynthia van Zelm, Jennifer Kaufman, Katie Bell, Jay O’Keefe, Monica Ferrara

Town Manager, Ryan Aylesworth, welcomed everyone in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by chairperson Stoddard.

Katie Fratoni spoke highly of the Town, its many committed volunteers and encouraged committees to contribute their actions to this year’s Sustainable CT application.

Chadwick Schroeder from Sustainable CT gave an overview of the 2022 action categories and introduced a new 2022 Climate Leader designation.

Attendees identified actions they have been or are working on that may fit Sustainable CT criteria. Van Zelm stated (1) an Explore Our Town guide has been completed, (2) four towns are working together to identify community assets and (3) a business database is almost completed. Aylesworth spoke about (1) Mansfield’s participation in the rural Welcoming America initiative and (2) expanding public Wi-Fi. Mitoma and Ferrara reported that the Human Rights Commission is working on an equity statement. Bell stated that all the schools held an equity institute. McDonough reported that the library is doing an equity, diversity and inclusion evaluation of its book collection. An Affordable Housing Committee is being formed. Painter reported (1) updating its reference to renewable energy in the regulations, and (2) since 2019 the regulations have been updated to include affordable housing. Aho mentioned the Four Corners has increased density. Lyman reported (1) the incorporation of pollinator education, (2) connecting families with local food, (3) adding solar panels to the MMS roof, (4) the design features of the new school and (5) working to introduce electric buses to the fleet.

After Aylesworth closing remarks, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton