

Minutes

Members Present: Lynn Stoddard, Peter Millman, Bill Lennon, Katie Fratoni (online), Chris Kueffner, Sarah Dufresne, Josh Walters, Stella Ross (guest), Virginia Walton (staff), and Dylan Steer (staff).

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by chairperson Stoddard.

The February 11, 2026 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Millman/Lennon.

Members and guests did introductions for incoming Sustainability & Solid Waste Coordinator Dylan Steer. Steer then introduced himself to the committee, providing professional background, education, and gratitude in accepting the position.

Starting with Stoddard, members went around the room expressing sentiments and gratitude to Walton amidst her retirement and this being her last Sustainability Committee meeting as a staff person. At this point Ross and Fratoni departed.

The committee next discussed the transition plan between Walton and Steer. A brief discussion followed when Kueffner asked Steer about his first impressions for sustainability improvement in Mansfield and town government. Steer responded that a main focus would be communication with younger, college aged residents, who seem to not be captured by current communications efforts and engage them in sustainability efforts. Social media outreach with short form content would be a large part of the effort; the objective is to “meet people where they’re at.”

Stoddard updated the committee Ben Funk attended the SolarAPP+ webinar. Stoddard will follow up with Funk.

The construction of the new animal shelter and bathhouse raised questions regarding the net-zero building status of these projects. The committee would like to see the town maintain best practices through a net-zero building policy. Stoddard waiting on communication from the town manager regarding these projects. Stoddard also will reach out to the Branford, CT animal shelter to investigate their operations as they are a net-zero animal shelter currently in operation.

Stoddard asked who would be available for tabling at the April 25, 2026 Earth Day event focused on Sustainable CT achievements; Walters and Stoddard may be available. Walton stated there would also be a waste truck at the event to feature the function of separated refuse and recycling waste streams to the public. The solid waste committee will also have a table at the event.

Walton raised the new Sustainability Committee charge and the prospect of inviting new members. There is currently 1 member seat and 1 alternate seat open. Walters was asked if he would consider a permanent seat rather than an alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Dylan Steer