

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting
Video Conference
March 24, 2021

Members Present: Susannah Everett, Virginia Walton (staff)

Attendees: Leslie Ricklin (Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission), Jean de Smet (Sustainable Windham), Ada Snodgrass (Joshua Trust), Terry Wollen (Mansfield Agriculture Committee), Ken Feathers (Mansfield Parks and Natural Resources Committee), Sue Harrington (Mansfield Parks and Natural Resources Committee), Tom Harrington (Mansfield Parks and Natural Resources Committee), Melissa Sheardwright (Mansfield), Charlotte Pyle (Mansfield Parks and Natural Resources Committee), Ciara Tennis (ECSU)

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 by acting chairperson Everett.

Introductions were made.

The approval of the March 3, 2021 minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Sunflower seed collaboration – with seeds in short supply and the amount of time it takes to fundraise, it was decided to skip fundraising and purchase 224 grams of Mammoth Gray Stripe Sunflowers and 4 ounces of Gold Metal Mix Zinnia seeds from Fedco Seeds out of Maine. The cost is minimal and can be covered through donations. These seeds are sourced from small organic farmers that do not treat seeds with neonicotinoids. Walton will place the order. de Smet will give seeds to Veggie-Stock to grow and disperse. In Mansfield, Oak Grove Montessori School, the Middle School fifth grade and a 1st grade class at Southeast School are interested in growing seeds. The Pollinator Pathways group and Xerces Society have literature that can be distributed to the seedlings. Walton will share with the group.

Goodwin Conservation Center is offering a pollinator presentation on April 19, 2021 from 5 to 6 pm and another one is being offered at Mansfield Community Center on May 12, 2021 from 7 to 8:30 pm. The towns could jointly promote these programs.

Joshua's Trust has been organizing very popular planting dates, with a focus on native plants. One good source of native plants is New England Wildflower Farm.

Next steps – each town begin identifying sites and posting them as pollinator rich locations on the pollinator pathway map. The Towns can then begin to see where connections need to be made in order to create a corridor. There was discussion about using the library and town halls as locations for demonstration areas.

Participants agreed to meet again in a month on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton