



# Town of Bolton

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## **SUSTAINABLE CT COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 7:00 P.M. - VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

The May 27, 2020 Sustainable CT Committee meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Sandra Pierog; Energy Committee Representative Richard Dziadul; Conservation Commission Rep. Rod Parlee; At-Large Members Stanley Staron, Kitty Tyrol, Alyssa McDonnell, and Jennifer Cyr; Director of Community Development Patrice Carson; and Administrator Joshua Steele Kelly.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sustainability Intern Alexa Loda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – Approval of the April 22, 2020 meeting minutes.**

**DISCUSSION:** Kitty Tyrol noted that she was not present at the April meeting, despite being listed as present.

**MOTION** by Parlee, seconded by Tyrol, to approve the minutes as amended.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Unanimous.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – Discussion on Sustainable CT Action Items.**

**DISCUSSION:** Pierog reported that the Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) will be receiving two Sustainable CT Fellows, and Carson let the group know that Bolton is already signed up to make use of those two fellows for the purpose of furthering our bid for Sustainable CT certification.

Carson went on to describe the submission that was made in April for the Sustainable CT program. She stated that a submission was not submitted for Section 4 of the Sustainable CT action items, and that the committee needs to figure out something to submit. Complete Streets was an item discussed under Section 5. Section 7 was covered by the town's Freedom of Information Act training in February. Section 8 has not yet been completed in as thorough a manner as Carson would like, but she will be touching base with Building Inspector Jim Rupert to discuss one of the actions in that section further.

Carson noted that the town's recent virtual trivia night might be usable as an equity action, under Section 9. Tyrol inquired about how the committee went about acquiring an equity coach, and Carson explained that those coaches are assigned directly by Sustainable CT.

Carson then went on to introduce Alexa Loda, who has signed on to serve as Bolton's Sustainability Intern for the summer. She will be focusing on projects related to action item 7.8, dealing with food waste prevention and general reuse. Loda explained a bit about the work she has done so far in regards to door-to-door composting, and both Kelly and Parlee added some additional information about different contacts that might be of use to Loda's pursuit. Tyrol asked if the group should be looking for ways to help residents compost within town rather than removing it from town, to which Loda responded that a large compost pile in town is possible. Pierog cautioned that finding an adequate location may be difficult, but encouraged Loda to explore options. Parlee added that reducing food waste would also save the town money by diverting more tonnage from garbage collection to this compost pickup. Staron asked if the school would be a part of a large group composting project, to which Loda said it was a possibility. McDonnell said that her college had worked on composting projects and that looking to compost food scraps generated from food preparation in schools may be a good place to start. Carson said that education about what can and cannot be composted would also have to be a part of any successful program. Loda added that messaging about such a program would have to carefully identify and promote the cost savings that could be felt by the taxpayers. Tyrol asked Kelly if the 2019 Community Survey asked a question about the number of people in town who already compost, to which Kelly said that it did not. Pierog suggested that Loda field a supplemental survey question in a future Bolton Bulletin asking that question. Dziadul suggested that the town make a "how-to" film, through the Community Voice Channel (CVC), that could help residents get started on their own.

Tyrol brought up the concept of a well water testing campaign again, and discussion ensued on that subject. Parlee and McDonnell discussed the differences between watershed management and public watershed education.

Kelly shared information about the Hop River Trail tunnel lighting feasibility study that was conducted over the past semester by two UConn students. They estimate that lighting installation would cost between \$24,000-30,000, with monthly recurring electric costs being somewhere between \$140-\$250. Discussion ensued. The fact that the project has been tentatively approved for Sustainable CT matching funds was shared.

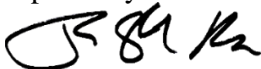
AGENDA ITEM 6 – Set the next meeting date.

DISCUSSION: Pierog and Carson recommended that June 24 be identified as a next meeting date.

CONSENSUS was reached to set the date of the next meeting for June 24.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Steele Kelly, Administrator

*See minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.*