

Meeting commenced at 3:02 PM.

I. Attendance

1. Kevin Malone, Mari Jackson, Mary Isaac, April Lang, Pam Roman, Mary Ellen Lemay, Richard Post, Bill Chin (facilitator)

II. Welcome Invited Guests

1. Janet Epstein, Ellie Grosso.

III. Review and approve 7/12/21 meeting minutes

1. April moved. Mary Ellen seconded.

IV. Updates / Reports

A. Silver Certification – progress update

1. Equity Toolkit

- i. Students – we will likely get credit for this equity project
- ii. Local Meals program (2.4.4)
 1. MEL will follow up with Rina. Kevin will prepare list of questions for her to ask.
 2. Maybe have SCT review proposed submission, if we have time.
- iii. Community garden
 1. Possibility of up to 12 raised garden beds.
 2. Dmitri sent link to MEL for aluminum beds to maintain soil.
 3. Michael Murray is frustrated with Town/Dmitri not being communicative. He now wants Garden Swap group to build garden at TNAC.
 4. Won't get SCT credit this year because not far enough along.

B. Fundraising

1. Possible projects:

- i. Garden Swap group growing food for Food Pantry.
- ii. CT NOFA is pushing “founder’s plots” that produce native seeds
 1. 7-12 species would be ideal
 2. Could sell the seeds or propagate them to grow plants

2. SCT Matching Grant

- i. Janet spoke with SCT. They indicate fundraising as indicated below:
 1. Up to 50% donor advised funds
 2. ~ 50% crowd sourced
 3. SCT will provide matching funds
- ii. Need a non-profit (501c3) to receive the funds.
 1. Kevin will check with Patrons of TNAC as a possible recipient of these funds.

C. Top Priorities for Municipal Cooperation

1. Outdoors / Nature / Environment

- i. Community Garden – discussed above
- ii. Natural Resource Inventory
 1. MEL has Word document of the NRI.
 2. Conservation Commission will work on identifying action items and following up with the Town.

2. Waste Reduction
 - i. Composting
 1. Mary will check with George Estrada re: transfer station
 2. Middletown is composting restaurant food scraps.
 3. Energy
 - i. Electric vehicle charging station
 1. Town is investigating locations (preliminary stage)
 4. Student Involvement
 - i. TSY initiatives
 1. Still doing cleanups
 2. Still helping with recycling drives
 3. Might work with THS Enviro club to help with Trex and Bic pen recycling.
 - ii. BOE / PTA
 1. April met with most school principals to engage schools in four main initiatives:
 - a. Trex recycling
 - b. Bic pen recycling
 - c. Book drive
 - d. Pollinator Pathway
 2. April and others to meet with all principals on Sept 15.
- D. Outreach
1. Farmer's Market
 - i. Either Sept 2 or 23 is next opportunity
 2. New ST logo contest
 - i. tabled for future discussion
 3. Henkel collaboration
 - i. Mari sent them info on current recycling drive, coastal cleanup
 - ii. April and Pam met with Kristy of Henkel in Stamford regarding Pollinator Pathway.
 4. Trex Bench
 - i. Will be delivered to Town in next 8-12 weeks.
 - ii. Maybe place it in Unity Park near pickleball court

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Minutes prepared by K. Malone, Trumbull Nature and Arts Center