Minutes

1. Call to order/roll call: A. Kahn called the meeting to order at 6:12pm. Members present: A. Kahn, P. Turner, T. Balestracci, C. Fasullo.

2. Review of previous Meeting Minutes: Committee accepted previous meeting minutes 10/26/21, 11/9/21, 12/14/21 as submitted.

3. Sustainable CT:
   - Climate Leader Designation Update: A. Kahn shared the Climate Leader initiative. It requires 140 points. A. Kahn to ask SustainableCT for guidance and how many points have been earned that are applicable. Climate Leader Designation begins in the Spring and the deadline is currently unknown. A. Kahn to share the Climate Leader Designation list of initiatives.

4. Sustainable States Community Energy Challenge:
   - Feedback from call with Native Energy: A. Kahn had a call with Native Energy 1/10/22. Native Energy consults on projects and carbon offset initiatives. There are grant programs, like USDA, to help reduce the carbon footprint. Some farms participate for free or contribute in-kind labor. There are programs to help reduce manure and methane gas. Costs depend on how large the farm is, how many cows and if they prefer a separation or digester system of composting and reusing the manure.

5. Sustainability Committee Initiatives:
   1. Energy Audit Update: C. Fasullo dropped off the EnergizeCT brochures to the Wheeler Library and the Town Hall. C. Fasullo gave the business brochures to PDZO Nate Reichert.
   2. Locally sourced products: no updates
   3. “How to Save a Planet”: A. Kahn recommended this podcast.
   4. Earth Day plan: The committee discussed how to encourage Earth Day initiatives. There were discussions on joining other events like the North Stonington Agricultural Fair 7/14/22-7/17/22 or the NoSto Fest. Committee also discussed clean-up along the Pawcatuck River along the new canoe and kayak trail.
5. **Town-wide sustainability social media campaign:** IT Manager Jim Russell will create a Facebook page for this committee and add P.Turner and T. Balestracci as administrators.

6. **Bay Street Textiles Recycling:** The committee discussed where the best location for a recycling bin would be. The Transfer Station would be a challenge since they are not open everyday. The committee discussed reaching out to the Board Of Selectman and asking if the Recreation Building could be used.

6. **Pollinator Pathways Update:** P.Turner, will start the application for crowdfunding, to go live late February. They are working with Wheeler Library and The Congregational Church to add in a small garden.

7. **Sustainable North Stonington Website Updates:** A.Kahn shared the website and the new links that have been added. A social media page will be created to track engagement.

8. **Public comment:** none

9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn and seconded (T.Balestracci/C.Fasullo) 7:34pm
   3-0 motion carried (P.Turner left 7:27pm)

Respectfully Submitted,

Tuula Balestracci