

AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
APRIL 14, 2022 6:00PM
Via Zoom

AGENDA

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone or join via Zoom. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Katie O'Leary at koleary@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Public participation**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approve minutes of March 8, 2022 meeting
- 5. Business**
 - a. Resilient CT outreach program presented by John Truscinski
 - b. Planning & Zoning updates and outreach calendar presented by Laura Kenny
- 6. Adjournment**

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MARCH 8, 2022
VIA ZOOM**

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ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Josh Goldstein; Dominique Johnson; Thomas Keegan; Thomas Livingston; Darlene Young; Heidi Alterman (6:13 p.m.)

OTHERS: Brian Bidoli, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Diana Revolus, Common Council member; Adam Welchel, the Nature Conservancy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of this ad hoc committee.

2. ROLL CALL

The Committee members present are indicated above.

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3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella asked the Committee members to remember to include the public in their work through either working groups or subcommittees. She said she stands ready to help as she has for over 30 years.

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND CHARGE

Ms. Shanahan shared the committee charge and encouraged everyone to look at it. She read the purpose and scope of responsibilities.

5. DISCUSSION OF CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOP LED BY ADAM WHELCHEL AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Mr. Bidoli introduced Mr. Whelchel.

Ms. Alterman joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mr. Whelchel walked through the structure of the work proposed for Norwalk. He said this feels like a perfect fit in terms of first steps and a great way to initiate a process. He said it is about bringing people together as a community at an in-person workshop.

The principal objectives are to get in touch with what they feel are the top hazards and identify strengths, spend time on vulnerabilities and look at potential actions. That can become the playbook for the work that will be done.

Mr. Whelchel explained that he has worked with over 450 municipalities, and it takes a community. He said he asked the Core Team to identify who they want to have at the workshops. Mr. Bidoli said they have been working to set up a Core Team. The Core Team will include, Ms. Shanahan, Mr. Livingston; Mr. Kleppin; Ms. King; Ms. Vonashek and people from Public Works.

Mr. Whelchel gave an overview of the timeline. Mr. Goldstein asked if he would work with the Committee. Mr. Whelchel said they will work with them, but there is a limited amount of *pro bono* work they can provide. Mr. Goldstein said he did not hear that the summary would include recommendations. Mr. Whelchel said they will provide them with priority actions. The Core Team can provide samples from comparable cities to provide the type of actions that come out of the workshop.

Ms. Johnson asked if the summary will tell who owns what action. Mr. Whelchel said it will not; the key step is compiling the Core Team. Ms. Johnson said she hoped the

Committee could have a role in this. She also asked about equity. Mr. Welchel said they would try to get as many sustainable Connecticut people on the team as possible.

Ms. Young told Mr. Welchel that she hoped they could include equity in the description, because that will impact how people will participate. Mr. Bidoli said he recalled that there is a powerful mapping tool that identifies social vulnerabilities. Mr. Welchel added that there have been improvements to this and they can build that into the in person workshop. Ms. Shanahan said the report will be fully vetted by this Committee.

Mr. Welchel said this is your work and if he does his job right, people will feel they are being heard. Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Welchel for doing this and expressed gratitude for the partnership.

6. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DISTRICT CONSERVATION

Ms. Shanahan said it was suggested they go out into the community to prepare for these conversations. The Committee members discussed community outreach. Mr. Goldstein said they will have to determine how they will deal with what they will hear from the public. Ms. Young said they will have to know their audience. They need to be specific about what they are trying to accomplish. Ms. Alterman asked if it was possible to starting using the language line. She said it was important to her to have that at meetings when they are doing outreach. Mr. Bidoli said he would be happy to look into the language line.

Ms. Revolus suggested being inventive on how to engage the community – fun, food, and a voice. Ms. Johnson suggested partnering with various commissions if they are going to do outreach throughout the City. Mr. Livingston suggested partnering with different organizations.

Ms. Revolus suggested that a great way to reach out to the people in District B was to ask Customer Service to provide data on the number of calls received. Mr. Livingston said that was a great idea and said they could talk to Customer Service to see how they track complaints. Mr. Bidoli said he would pull together what other towns do.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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