

AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2023 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 comments 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 September 15, 2022 meeting.
 - b. Approve minutes of November 9, 2022 meeting.
- 5. Business**
 - a. Update on the inventory of current sustainability projects underway.
 - b. Update on the Climate Action and Sustainability Plan RFP.
 - c. Introduction to stormwater authorities presented by Save the Sound.
- 6. Adjournment**

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Josh Goldstein, Dominique Johnson,
Thomas Livingston

STAFF: Brian Bidolli, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Executive Director;
Marc Dillon, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, Katie O’Leary, Norwalk
Redevelopment Agency

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diana Lauricella said that she had reviewed the draft and reiterated that she was pleased that the administration had decided to have this ad hoc committee. She said that she had offered her expertise but had not received any response from the Committee or the administration. She asked Ms. Shanahan to contact her off line regarding the format of the draft.

Ms. Lauricella then gave an example regarding the energy concerns. She noted that she was on the Green Building Committee and suggested having microgrids in Norwalk in the event of a hurricane or other weather event.

Ms. Lauricella said that in 2014, she had been asked to create an assessment highlighting where the City departments could step up. She said that she had put together a matrix and it had been put up on line. She added that regarding the project listing, that there were many projects like Numbers 13, 14, 44 and 45 that should have a higher ranking. She said that she works with brown fields and would like to discuss this off line. She noted that she would be submitting more comments in writing to the Committee.

Ms. Lynnelle Jones submitted written comments which were read and will be attached to the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

a. May 11, 2022 meeting

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2022 MEETING.**

Ms. Johnson asked if the comments would be attached to the minutes. Ms. Shanahan said that Ms. Jones' comments would be attached to the current set of minutes.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Business

a. Brian Bidolli, Executive Director, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, will present the Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings.

Ms. Shanahan said that on May 26th, the City of Norwalk in partnership with The Nature Conservancy hosted the Community Building Workshop. Ms. Shanahan then introduced Brian Bidolli..

Mr. Bidolli gave an overview of the Summary of Findings, process and outcomes.

Mr. Bidolli then displayed PowerPoint slides on the screen and narrated the overview of the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop.

Mr. Bidolli outlined the process. He stated that at first conversations were had and stakeholders were identified then existing plans were reviewed by The Nature Conservancy to ensure already identified concerns were included in the conversations. Next a questionnaire was completed that identified new data. Finally we conducted a workshop and the outcome was the Summary of Findings. Mr. Bidolli said we all want to develop a larger sustainability, resilience and climate action plan and the Summary of Findings is the catalyst. He said from here we'll be able to refine, curate and bring in more analytical tools. This Summary will help jump start the next steps.

Some of the vulnerabilities identified were flooding, severe weather events, drought, and extreme temperatures.

He then gave a very general overview of the summary of findings, such as vulnerable populations, ecosystems, road, bridges, infrastructure and waterways; along with strengths and assets. It is not an exhaustive list, but a compilation of what was discussed at the workshop.

The recommendations included long term vision, growth and infrastructure improvements, along with the quality of life improvements and emergency management. He then displayed a Resilience Matrix on the screen and stated that the large group had broken out into smaller

discussion groups to discuss priorities. He said that it was critical to increase the educational outreach and that there was a general consensus on key priorities between the discussion groups.

Mr. Bidolli said that they would like to attach this report to the RFP for the consultant when it is released to the public.

Mr. Goldstein asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Bidolli said that the next step would be procuring a consultant to create a Climate Action Plan. This will help them determine the next steps and navigate the process. Discussion followed about the flooding last year and this year's drought.

Ms. Shanahan said that there was pressure on the Common Council to plan for carbon neutrality and other similar benchmarks. Mr. Bidolli said that they could start refining the process and identifying key benchmarks and be proactive. Ms. Shanahan asked what the Committee could do about sustainability now and highlighting now rather than waiting for the Action Plan which would be completed in six to nine months. Discussion followed about the short terms goals that the Committee could pull out from the plan.

Ms. Shanahan thanked Mr. Bidolli for presenting the plan and noted that she felt that it was really readable. She also said that she would like to thank Adam.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Comment from Lynnelle Jones for the Sustainability & Resilience Committee meeting, Sept 15, 2022

Thank you for reading these during the public comment period and including them in your minutes.

This is an interesting summary of findings, including who was and was not involved.

The draft being presented today, from a May 2022 workshop, followed the delayed publication this year of the City of Norwalk's annual Stormwater Management Plan, a document required every year under Norwalk's MS4 permit. This workshop also followed my public comment on the Annual 2021 Stormwater Management Plan, which was shared with your committee and many City Leaders listed in this summary.

If Coastal Flooding is listed as the City of Norwalk's number 1 hazard, then why has the City of Norwalk allowed certain coastal neighborhoods, like my neighborhood Wilson Point, to avoid required coastal permits, the filling of tidal wetlands, and not enforced inland wetland State regulations?

Thank you for looking into this and getting back to me.

Lynnelle Jones

**City of Norwalk
Ad Hoc Sustainability and Resilience Committee
Regular Meeting
November 9, 2022**

Attendance: Chairman Lisa Shanahan, Josh Goldstein

Staff: Brian Bidolli, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Executive Director;
Marc Dillon, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, Katie O'Leary, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

1) Call to Order

Chairman Lisa Shanahan called the meeting to order at 6:07. There was not a quorum present.

2) Acceptance of minutes from the September 15, 2022 meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes will be postponed until next month's meeting as there was not a quorum present.

3) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4) Business

a. Sustainability and Climate Action Plan update.

Mr. Bidolli gave an update on the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. He said the RFP was issued and an information session was held which had a good turnout. There are a number of firms interested in participating.

Mr. Goldstein asked how long it would take from when a contract is signed. Mr. Bidolli gave an estimate of 9-12 month planning period.

Mr. Bidolli presented a matrix of priority projects and shared four potential benchmarks; life quality, resilience, environment and innovation, created by DKSR. DKSR has developed a specific index which is base off The International Organization of Standards (ISO). The ISO standards are considered best practices for resilience and sustainability. They will conduct workshops to determine what the benchmarks mean, how we can continue to assess ourselves, and actionable projects. Mr. Bidolli further discussed the process and benchmarks.

City of Norwalk
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Regular Meeting
November 9, 2022

Norwalk will be among the first communities of its size in the U.S. to implement an overarching plan of this nature.

Ms. Shanahan asked how to benchmark progress made. Mr. Bidolli said we'll get a snap shot of where Norwalk is at and then as a community determine where Norwalk wants to be.

Mr. Goldstein made the point that the goals should be ambitious but still attainable within a reasonable timeframe.

All agree that mobility is at the forefront of progress. If public transportation can be improved to the point of reducing the number of cars but keeping Norwalk competitive, the impact would be huge.

Going forward, the committee would like to hire the consultants by the end of the year.

5) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Shanahan adjourned the meeting at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Chapple
Telesco Secretarial Services