MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm

2. Roll Call:
   - Members Present: Marie MacDonald; Paula Jones; Val Rossetti; David Hager; Zellene Sandler; Vikki Reski; Charlie Horn
   - Members Absent: Dwight Bolton; Seth Pitts
   - Guests: Carmella Garofalo, a sister at Sisters of Mercy who is interested in environmental justice.

3. Approval of Agenda: Two items under “Announcements” were added. The first is to revisit CEEC priorities. The second item is a PURA workshop. Agenda approved with these additions.

4. Approval of July 11, 2019 Minutes: Minutes approved


   Samples/Vendors/Costs/Distribution/Sponsorship/Fundraiser:
   Charlie provided information on prices for various samples of bags. Discussion was held about the goal for the bags. Consensus was that the bags should be given to people who can’t afford them. Will load them with food donated at Shred Day and donate to the Food Bank. Sponsors will be sought. Paula will ask Operation Fuel and Marie will ask the Town Council and Bloomfield Garage as well as Dwight Bolton and Cigna. Paula and Marie will get logos. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 16.

   Paperbag ordinance:
   David asked what the next steps are re banning plastics, a fee on paper bags, etc. Plastic bag law does not cover all plastics. Should we be addressing this? State is talking about banning styrofoam take-out containers. Val will bring in draft legislative language proposed at the state level from last year. Need to prioritize what the Committee wants to work on, either at this meeting or at another.

6. Shred Day/Electronics Recycling Day is Saturday, October 12 from 10 am to 2 pm at Town Hall. Sponsors are Homestead, Earthlight and Take2Recycling. Discussed updating posters, flyers. Charlie Horn will take care of this and will add “Bring a non-perishable food item for our Bloomfield Food Bank” to the signs and flyers.

7. Sustainability CT Workshop – Middletown 09.06.19 – Community Match Funds for Sustainable CT projects. Project was described and examples given. Composting and recycling are on list of priorities. Members were asked to think through possible projects
for further discussion. Outreach to get input from all areas of town is important. Charlie will write up this matching fund opportunity for the Town newsletter in November. A suggestion was made that this should include a Doodle poll. Links to the project can be found at: Community Match Fund and examples of projects at: https://sustainablect.org/funding/

Bloomfield’s Environmental Planner, Ashley Stewart is now studying at Yale. Ashley’s position is being advertised. She will be presenting on Complete Streets at the Land Use and Economic Development Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm in Town Hall’s Conference Room #5 (second floor) and would appreciate support from members of the CEEC at the meeting and by spreading the word on this important initiative.

8. Public Comments –
Val asked whether there is an environmental issue in the TPZ approval of the site plan for 51 homes with conditions. Paula commented that one of the conditions is that in order to have emergency access to the site, the Town Council would need to approve an easement through a corner of LaSalette Park. Val also asked whether the state is going to renew the grant for state land up near Seabury? Paula responded that the Town is currently negotiating with the State on the acreage that would be included under the terms of a new lease.

9. CEEC membership - Now at 9. Can we recruit more diverse membership? Val will contact, ‘A Better Bloomfield’ to see if they have anyone who would like to serve.

10. PFAS Update: Paula reported that this is a huge problem. Val said there is some very toxic stuff coming out of the Hartford landfill into the CT River. There are concerns that it is contaminating groundwater and private wells. PFAS have not been found in any large municipal water supplies yet. Gov. Lamont’s state taskforce plan of action is to be released in October.

11. Announcements/Discussion:

- Pollinator Pathways: Zellene reported on a workshop she attended on pollinator pathways, coordinated by the Simsbury Land Trust. Attended by many local land trusts, garden clubs, environmentalists, DEEP representatives. Nationwide project, trying to ensure that pollinators always have a food supply. Not just for butterflies, but also other pollinating insects. There are 5 different subcommittees including education, fundraising, and possibly communications. One part is highlighting use of pesticides. They are talking about how far apart these plots have to be. Zellene will report back when there is more information.
- Legislative Update: no report
- Recycling/Composting: on our priority list.
- PACE’s new heat pump grant and website to be discussed.
- Need a liaison person to John Lawlor [PW] re What’s In What’s Out DEEP brochure be distributed to all to affix to the inside cover of our blue bins. PW is working on RFPs for new contract. Val volunteered.
• August pot luck was a wonderful success. Thank you, Dwight for hosting.
• New CEEC email: ceec06002@comcast.net
• Prioritize CEEC priorities: Val asked to put this item on the agenda for the November meeting and there was consensus that this would be useful. Carmella Garofalo asked whether it would be helpful to have a facilitator when discussing priorities? Vikki will ask Ann Farnham.
• PURA has asked to hold a workshop in Bloomfield: The Public Utility Regulatory Authority’s (PUA) is focused on raising awareness about what is going on, e.g., by electrical suppliers and solar suppliers. Would like to meet especially with senior citizens to assist people to be treated fairly. This will likely happen sometime in November at 330 Park Avenue.

12. Confirm next meeting date: October 10, November 14 and December 12, 2019. Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in Conference Room #2 at Town Hall.

13. Adjourned at: 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Horn