

AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MAY 11, 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 April 14, 2022 meeting

5. Business

- a. Michelle Andrzejewski, Land Use Planner, Planning & Zoning, along with Sydney Collins, UConn student, will discuss the outreach for the SoNo Community Resilience efforts.
- b. Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer, Planning & Zoning, will review inland and tidal wetland, flood, Coastal Area Management and Aquifer regulations.

6. Adjournment

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
APRIL 14, 2022
Via Zoom**

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ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Dominique Johnson; Thomas Keegan; Thomas Livingston; Josh Goldstein (6:05 p.m.)

STAFF: Steve Kleppin, Director Planning and Zoning; Brian Bidolli, Katie O'Leary, and Marc Dillon Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

OTHERS: ; John Truscinski, Resilient CT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the Roll as indicated above.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to comment this evening.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. **Approve minutes of March 8, 2022 meeting**

Mr. Goldstein joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 3 – correct fell to feel

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO CORRECT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. BUSINESS

Mr. Bidolli announced that the Redevelopment Agency was awarded a \$6 million grant from the State of Connecticut for infrastructure around the South Norwalk Train Station. They are looking for opportunities to integrate green features around the train station. In addition, he said they just submitted a RAISE grant request for \$14 million to expand sustainability and equity components of the South Norwalk project.

a. Resilient CT outreach program presented by John Truscinski

Mr. Truscinski described CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaption). He presented slides showing their initiatives in the south end of Bridgeport, including a coastal flood defense system, a resilience center, an energy study and flood plain design guidelines. He reviewed the long term vision for establishing resilient communities.

Mr. Truscinski reviewed the long term vision for establishing resilient communities. He presented maps showing the zones of shared risk and the climate change vulnerability index. He explained that hot areas tend to be in urban areas. South Norwalk was an area that looks like it has a vulnerability to heat. In addition, South Norwalk shows up as a place that has social vulnerabilities.

Mr. Truscinski presented highlights for 2021-2022 and said they are moving into phase three of the project. The plan is to work with the City as one of seven resilient projects in Connecticut. He presented an overall scope for the resilient SoNo phase three project.

Mr. Livingston asked the meaning of social vulnerability. Mr. Truscinski explained that social vulnerability is relevant to climate context. The defining factors that make it difficult for people to adapt to either flooding or other impacts.

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Ms. Johnson said that in Bridgeport the industrial neighborhoods were factored into the social vulnerability index. She noted there are a lot of mixed use zones in South Norwalk. She asked if that was factored into Norwalk's vulnerability index. Mr. Truscinski said DEEP is working on a map for specifically that issue. Places tend to be hotter where they see a lot of industrial activity.

Mr. Truscinski presented the six tasks in the overall scope for resilient SoNo phase three project. He said they hope to kick off this project in June 2022 and complete it by May 2023. The budget is \$150,000 for the consultant team.

Mr. Truscinski reviewed the next steps. He said that to understand how residents feel at the ground level, they will be deploying 13 noninvasive heat sensors throughout the City.

Ms. Shanahan asked who should populate the advisory committee. Mr. Truscinski said it is about getting a mixture of different perspectives. Mr. Kleppin said he submitted a list to Ms. King and will be happy to forward that list to this Committee. He noted that representatives from Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Human Services and Redevelopment are interested.

Mr. Truscinski gave examples of similar programs he did in Bridgeport such as building a levy around the south end, elevating University Avenue and creating a storm water park that is meant to reduce flooding risk behind the levy.

Mr. Bidolli said that the workshop in May combined with Mr. Truscinski's work and the work with Planning and Zoning will move them toward a similar status as Bridgeport for applying for grants. The momentum they are building now is important.

b. Planning & Zoning updates and outreach calendar presented

Mr. Kleppin said Planning and Zoning discussed the makeup of the committee and believe they can come together shortly. In addition, the CIRCA initiative will lead to other grant opportunities. He said they hope to get funding for an overall coastal study plan.

Mr. Kleppin said they are looking at potential restoration of the habitat at Veterans Park for the shellfish beds. That grant is due in May. They will be looking at a Long Island Sound grant for coastal resiliency later in the year.

Ms. Shanahan said that she and others will be touring the salt marsh in Bridgeport.

Mr. Bidolli reported that the Climate workshop will take place in late May. So far 21 people have responded.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services