

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org



Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Lori A. Bufano
Second Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Selectman

Deborah A. McFadden
Selectwoman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING
Monday September 13, 2021
Held Electronically

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden, Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Noah Slovin – SLR Consulting, Charlie Taney – NRV, Frank Smeriglio – Asst. Director/Engineer of Public Works, Tammy Thornton – Wilton Go Green, CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:45pm.

B. Anticipated Motion to Move into Executive Session to Interview Steve Parrinello for the Housing Committee: Invite Steve Parrinello

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell to move into Executive Session to interview Steve Parrinello for the Housing Committee and invite Mr. Parrinello. Motion seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 4-0.

Out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session at 8:14pm.

C. Public Comment

Ms. Vanderslice noted an email sent in by Ceci Maher in support of Sustainable CT.

D. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. McFadden seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows with a correction to Gift from Vivien Lee Shiue as gift for Food Pantry and not Senior Center:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – August 2, 2021
 - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – August 17, 2021
- Gifts
 - Cayla Saret – Headden Gift Fund for Town Forest - \$50.00
 - Vivien Lee-Shiue - Senior Center - \$130.00
 - Stop & Shop Blooming 4 Good Program – Senior Center - \$55.00
 -

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Noah Slovin of SLR Consulting

Noah Slovin of SLR Consulting, who worked on updating the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan on behalf of WestCOG and Frank Smeriglio reviewed the Plan. WestCOG is seeking local adoption of the plan via a resolution (see attached). After discussion and review Ms. Vanderslice

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adopt the resolution and the four items that are RESOLVED as part of that resolution. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

2. NRVt WilWalk Change Order #11

Charlie Taney of the NRVt and Frank Smeriglio reviewed the NRVt WilWalk Change Order #11. After discussion and review, motion moved by Ms. McFadden and seconded by Ms. Bufano to authorize the First Selectwoman the sign Change Order #11 that modifies the scope for the extended trail for WilWalk and the NRVt. Motion carried 5-0

3. Report on Alignment of Sustainable CT Goals and POCD Goals – Tammy Thornton, Wilton Go Green

Ms. Vanderslice introduced Tammy Thornton of Wilton Go Green who presented the attached presentation. After discussion and review, Ms. Thornton agreed to provide Ms. Vanderslice with a list of requested town employee support.

4. Local Prevention Council Grant

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the Local Prevention Council Grant. She noted the grant is the same as in past years for the Wilton Youth Council. Motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to submit the grant on behalf of the Wilton Youth Council. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

5. Appointments – Area 9 Cable Council

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the appointments for the Area 9 Cable Council. She noted that Gary Battaglia and Jeffrey Boehme have agreed to continue to serve. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell and seconded by Ms. Bufano to reappoint Gary Battaglia and Jeffrey Boehme to the Area 9 Cable Council for a two-year term ending June 30 2023.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

Ms. Vanderslice discussed the topics below with the board.

- Vacancies – Inland Wetland – 2 vacancies and looking for at least one attorney
 - Update on WHS Track and Turf Fields
 - Upcoming discussion at the next Board of Finance meeting of a possible change in budgeting for BOE operating capital.
 - Meeting with Frontier about fiber being installed throughout town
 - COVID Update
 - Encouraged participation in the CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Grant Program
 - Circus and Fireworks events were hugely successful
- Thanked Steve Pierce, Gregg Zulkowski, Jim Lewicki and all others who helped with the events.

2. Selectmen

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden noted that forms to apply for the Neighborhood Assistance Act are available online from September 15th – October 1, 2021.

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell noted that the 911 Memorial Service held at the Fire Station was well done and thanked Ms. Bufano for representing the BoS.

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole noted he attended the Circus event and it was terrific.

Ms. Bufano

Ms. Bufano thanked all who came out for the 911 Ceremony.

G. Public Comment

None.

H. Anticipated Motion to Move to Executive Session to Discuss Possible Reorganization

Motion to move to Executive Session to Discuss Possible Reorganization at 9:46pm made by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in Regular Session at 10:33pm, no action/vote taken.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn meeting 10:33pm. Motion moved by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 3-0.

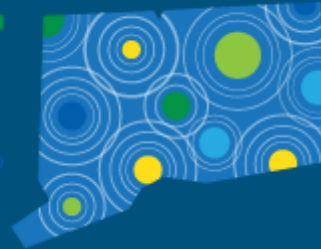
Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

Sustainable CT Recertification for Town of Wilton

Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.®



Sustainable CT Quick Facts

- 501(c)3 created by towns, for towns
- Work closely with state agencies to:
 - Ensure actions are in alignment with state goals.
 - Many actions can help achieve state goals:
 - climate change mitigation
 - waste reduction
 - open space acquisition
 - Participate in state planning processes: the Governor's Council on Climate Change, CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management working group.
- Currently over half of CT municipalities (124 of 169) registered for certification; and 64 registrants have earned BRONZE (45) or SILVER (19)



Silver

Greenwich
Stamford
Fairfield

Bronze

Darien
Norwalk
New Canaan
Weston
Ridgefield
Trumbull

Wilton Now

- Received Bronze Certification in October 2019
- Earned 240 points in 18 categories
- Access to Sustainable CT Match Grant Funds
- HUGE thank you to Debra Thomson-Van for leading the charge
- Certification Expires December 2022



Bike/Ped Trail in Wilton and Norwalk

Led by the Norwalk River Valley Trail, this project raised the final \$15,000 needed to close out a \$1.4 million expansion of this bike and pedestrian trail between Norwalk and Wilton.



“Organizations such as Sustainable CT play a critical role in providing key construction grants for the NRVT. In fact, the \$15,000 donation from Sustainable CT helped the NRVT raise the final dollars needed to meet the \$275,000 match that triggered the \$1.3 million grant from CT DEEP to build the section of the NRVT connecting Wilton and Norwalk. The next section of the NRVT for Wilton will extend the existing trail north of Skunk Lane. The NRVT hopes Sustainable CT can contribute to this upcoming trail construction.” ~ Charlie Taney, President, NRVT



Thousands of Connecticut residents visit **Woodcock Nature Center's** 150-acre preserve for hiking, learning and spending time with loved ones each year. The grounds are open *year-round from dawn to dusk at no charge* and include nearly 4 miles of trails, a large pond and outdoor aviaries.

*"We have a diverse habitat to explore at Woodcock but **one crucial element was missing: self-guided learning!** The Sustainable CT Match Fund made this possible for our community."*

— Lenore Herbst, Executive Director

Educational trail signs at Woodcock Nature Center

Let's create some new educational trail signage on our grounds!



A matching grant from Sustainable CT helped rally the community and support the addition of brand new fun and informative signage along the trails.

➡ **\$4,244 total raised**

➡ **15 vinyl trail signs in English & Spanish!**

Habitat Restoration - Wilton

*"I'm leading an effort in town to eradicate an acre of Mugwort at Allen's Meadow and replace it with a native pollinator meadow; due to the aggressive nature of this non-native invasive species, this is a tremendous challenge that will take time, patience, and resources. **I am so grateful that Sustainable CT agreed to match fund my own fundraising efforts up to \$4,000. Now with \$8,000 in total, I am confident that I can achieve my goal** of improving the health and sustainability of our native pollinators, our environment, as well as enhancing the recreational beauty of a favorite town park, Allen's Meadow".*

~Joe Bear



[Good Morning Wilton article](#)

Why Recertify?

- Helps identify sustainability gaps and opportunities
- Provides rallying point and community-wide opportunity to share in collective vision
- Offers access to matching funds for projects
- Recognizes/showcases our accomplishments and commitment to sustainability
- Promotes civic pride
- Serves as tool to attract new business, smart development, skilled workforce, new families as well as reduce municipal costs
- Responsibility as a community to be a part of the global solution for addressing climate issues



2021 *Bronze* Certification Requirements

Complete **1 Equity Toolkit** in Action [Optimize for Equity](#).

Complete at least **1 action** in each of the categories (1-11).

Successfully complete actions totaling **200 or more points**.



2021 *Silver* Certification Requirements

Complete **3 Equity Toolkits** in Action [Optimize for Equity](#).

Complete at least **1 action** in each of the categories (1-11).

Successfully complete actions totaling **400 or more points**.

Action Categories

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

2. Thriving Local Economies

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems
and Choices

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure
and Operations

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and
Education

9. Strategic Materials Management

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness
Prevention

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

[Sustainable CT Action Details](#)

POCD Accomplishments Possible Points

POCD Accomplishment	SCT Alignment	Possible Points
Natural and Historical Environment		
Conserve and Enhance Habitats 2.4.1	3.10.2 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management	5 or 10
Promote Energy Efficiency and Resiliency 3.2.3	7.4.2 Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings	Up to 50 points
Human and Economic Environment		
Increase Housing Options 1.1.2	11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options	10 - 40 points
Increase Housing Options 1.2.4	11.1.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan	10 points

Wilton POCD Alignment with Sustainable CT Actions

- 18 POCD Objectives fall within 21 Sustainable CT Action items
 - Refer to PDF handout for details
- Each POCD objective may or may not have an opportunity to submit for points based on its status
- Addressing Equity early

Example for Points:

POCD Objective 2.3.1 Natural and Historical Environment: Encourage the creation of greenways and backyard wildlife habitat through efforts such as the Pollinator Pathway Initiative.

Sustainable CT Goal 3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways (40 points, if Pollinator Resolution is passed)
Protect pollinators by creating pollinator gardens, enacting policies to protect pollinators and enhance their habitat, and educating the public on the importance of pollinator friendly habitats in your municipality.

Other Possible Points

- Rollover points from 2019 certification
 - 70 possible points from NEW or UPDATED activities within 10 submitted categories
 - Refer to PDF for details
- Shop Local, Win Local and Eat Local, Win Local, Wilton Walking Trails Challenge
- Food Scrap Program
- Glass Separation, waste management programs
- Chamber of Commerce and EDC - Business Roundtables
- Housing Committee
- Community Partnership for Energy Efficiency Engagement Initiative (aka small business energy efficiency outreach)

Timeline for Recertification

September 2021



- Approval from BOS
- Establish Certification Team of Wilton Go Green, resident volunteers, Town liaison
- Partner with Town departments and commissions while minimizing time demands
- Create inventory of accomplishments and establish timelines ongoing and new projects

April 2022



- Establish goals for achieving maximum points
- Submit draft application and support materials to Sustainable CT for input and counsel

August 2022

- Strengthen and complete application
- Submit final application for BRONZE/SILVER

Additional Resources Available

- Equity coaches
- Sustainable CT Fellows
- Webinars and Video Tutorials
- Sustainable CT Match Grant Funds for Interns/Project Manager

How Can Board of Selectmen Support Recertification

- Board of Selectmen approval to move forward with Sustainable CT Recertification
- Champion the program within our Town Boards and Commissions
- Provide INPUT and GUIDANCE for viable actions
- Help promote, advocate and communicate Wilton's participation in program across multiple networks
- Assist with key introductions
- Ask lots of questions
- Be a source for solutions

Thank You!

Full Quote from Charlie Taney

"The vision of the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) is to build and maintain a thirty-mile, multi-use trail from Norwalk, passing through Wilton, Ridgefield and Redding, and terminating in Danbury. The funding for NRVT construction comes from a variety of sources, including donations from individuals, foundations, and government grants. Organizations such as Sustainable CT play a critical role in providing key construction grants for the NRVT. In fact, the \$15,000 donation from Sustainable CT helped the NRVT raise the final dollars needed to meet the \$275,000 match that triggered the \$1.3 million grant from CT DEEP to build the section of the NRVT connecting Wilton and Norwalk. That construction is now underway, with completion expected in October. The NRVT deeply appreciates the support of Sustainable CT and hopes very much this funding will continue to be available for future trail construction in Wilton. The next section of the NRVT for Wilton will extend the existing trail north of Skunk Lane. The NRVT hopes Sustainable CT can contribute to this upcoming trail construction."

	A	B	C	E	F
1					
2					
3	Section	Category	Points	Can this activity been "rolled" forward for credit in 2021? (2022 not available yet)	
4	1.4.3	Supports Local Business	5	Yes with New Events	5
5	1.6.1	C-Pace	5	No, have to conduct C-Pace activities with companies	
6	2.3.1	River restoration/watershed	30	No, needs to projects	
7	2.9.1-2	Manage woodlands/trees	10	Yes, need to demonstrate ongoing meetings and tree plantings	10
8	2.10.1	invasive species mgmt	5	Yes, with new activites	5
9	2.11.1 part A	Green Grounds	10	Yes, need to demonstrate ongoing grounds mgmt	10
10	3.1.1 part B	Map tourism	5	Yes, need to demonstrate updates to CT state website	5
11	4.4.2	Assess climate vulnerabiity	5	Yes, need to update materials	5
12	5.6.1	NRVT	30	No, requires submission of new expansion	
13	5.4.4	Submitted EV at Wilton Library and Comstock	5	No, need new EV sites	
14	6.1.1	Energy benchmarking	5	No, and updates require using specific format	
15	6.4.1	Renewable energy production	10	Yes, with reports showing solar production for recent period	10
16	6.5.1-2	Municipal Energy Plan	10	No, need updated plan	
17	7.1.1	Zero Waste Fair & Farmer's Market	15	Yes with New Events	5
18	7.8.x	Food Waste	5	Yes, with new activites	5
19	7.10.1	Air Quality no idling	10	Yes, need to demonstrate ongoing postings	10
20	8.1.1	Housing assessment	10	No, need to demonstration action on previous plan	
21	9.1.1.	Equity category	20	No, need new Equity activities	
22	10.1	Innovative project	15	N/A	
23		Point Status	Points		
24		Total points Approved and/or Resubmitted	205	Total potential carry-over points towards 2022 certification (requires activities)	70

POCD Alignment with Sustainable CT Actions

Wilton POCD	Sustainable CT Actions
1.1.2 Update, maintain, and promote local open space trail maps in user-friendly formats for the public.	3.2.4: b. Increase preserved open space in your community
2.1.1 Continue to implement the Town's stormwater management plan (SWMP) in accordance with its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, which employs Low Impact Development techniques and Best Management Practices to mitigate impacts on water quality, such as pet waste, impervious cover runoff, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and illegal discharges. The SWMP also seeks to educate property owners and the public on pollutant sources, how to prevent or reduce pollutant discharge to waterways, and the effects of pollutants on waterways.	<u>3.1 Provide Watershed Education</u> <u>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</u> <u>3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration</u> <u>3.8 Implement Low Impact Development</u>
Objective 2.2. Monitor water resources and promote water conservation	<u>3.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation</u>
2.3.1 Encourage the creation of greenways and backyard wildlife habitat through efforts such as the Pollinator Pathway Initiative.	<u>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</u>
2.4.2 Require native plants when a landscaping plan is required for a project per zoning regulations. Encourage native plant use, even when a landscaping plan is not required.	<u>3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management</u>

2.4.5 Continue to implement Wilton Center Tree Plan and consider expanding the initiative to other parts of Town, including other villages and along Danbury Road. Develop a private sponsor and a maintenance plan for trees and significant shrubs in the Town Center and along the major roads. Include in the maintenance plan the need to address known diseases and likely demise of trees. Recommend replacement species in keeping with the long-term planting plans of the Wilton Tree Committee.	<u>3.9 Manage Woodlands and Urban Forests</u>
Objective 3.1. Encourage sustainable waste management practices	<u>9.1 Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste</u>
Objective 3.2. Promote energy efficiency and resiliency	<u>7.5 Develop a Municipal Energy Plan</u>
Objective 4.1. Preserve Wilton's historically important structures and cultural heritage	<u>5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources</u>
Objective 4.4. Continue to support and promote cultural organizations and institutions	<u>4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets</u>
Objective 1.1. Increase the Availability of Multi-Family Housing and Smaller Housing Units	<u>11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options</u>
Objective 3.4. Support existing businesses	<u>2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses</u>
Objective 5.2 Promote community engagement, civic-mindedness, and self-governance	<u>8.2 Provide Effective Community Communications</u>
Objective 2.1. Plan and regulate for transition in development patterns along Danbury Road from more intense uses in the southern corridor to more rural patterns in the northern corridor	<u>6.1 Implement Complete Streets</u>
Objective 5.1. Improve traffic flow and safety on Wilton roads	<u>6.1 Implement Complete Streets</u>

Objective 5.3 ♦ Improve bike and pedestrian linkages throughout Wilton, especially connecting neighborhoods to Wilton Center/ villages and other commercial areas, schools, active and passive recreation areas, and the NRV	<u>6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies</u>
Objective 5.4. Promote better transit options, service and increased use	<u>6.3 Encourage Smart Commuting</u>
Objective 3.3. Market Wilton's achievements in energy conservation, waste reduction, sustainability, and public health to prospective businesses and residents	3.3.1 Continue to participate in the Sustainable CT program and pursue certification based on desired and completed actions that are compatible with this Plan and community input.