

**WW Sustainability Committee Meeting
December 28, 2022**

Attending: Jane Glover, Susan Cutillo, Ted Hudson

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 7:30 - 8:30 via Zoom

This was the first meeting of the Committee. Topics discussed included Committee membership expansion, prioritization of Committee goals and discussion around what the group felt were two of the more important goals, septic system pollution and improved beach recycling.

Committee Membership Expansion: More heads and hands are needed on the Sustainability Committee. Committee members have been asked to reach out to individuals who they believe might share an interest in being part of the committee. We'd ask Charity to do the same, please.

Septic System Pollution: This was viewed as the highest priority due to potential impact.

- The issue is complex and could be controversial. The first steps will be mainly information gathering.
- Knowing the installation date (age) of systems may be helpful to owners and aid in risk assessment for the owner and WW. Does WW have this information on file for any properties? **(Charity)** Possibly town records could be a source of this information.
- The group agreed that a conversation with Valerie Nickerson-Bird, Tolland Health Department, to explain WW goals and needs relative to pond pollution avoidance and to discuss possible areas of cooperation, could be of value. There will be further discussion about this at January's meeting.

Improved Beach Recycling:

- The Committee suggested expanding any recycling program to include all public areas where trash is collected such as the pickleball courts and clubhouse.
- Collection containers should be color-coded and need to be consistent with Tolland Transfer Station recycling classifications.
- Is transport of recycling containers to the Transfer Station an appropriate responsibility for Jay and Mark? **(Charity)**
- A proposal to promote discussion will be prepared and distributed to the Committee before the next meeting. **(Ted)**

Thank you all.

WW Sustainability Committee Meeting
February 1, 2023

Attending: Jane Glover, Susan Cutillo, Doryce Seltzer, Ann Fazi, Ted Hudson

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 11:30 – 12:30 via Zoom

Topics discussed:

Election of Committee Chair:

Ted will act as chair.

Continued Discussion:

- **Septic Systems:**

After considerable discussion, it was decided to concentrate on a course of Education First. **Ann** is in the process of writing a septic system educational piece for the Association newsletter and will strive to have it completed for review by the Committee in time for the **April newsletter (mid-March submission)**, possibly with Pond Committee input. It was also suggested that a short informative message be highlighted in every newsletter to offer creatively-worded septic care and problem warning tips to help keep the issue current. Informing the Association office of any issues observed (odor, algae blooms, etc.) would be an important reminder in each message.

Rather than seeking a general meeting with the Health Department, the group agreed a more productive approach would be for the Committee to actively follow up with the Health Department on reported septic issues, including new installations and corrective actions. This would help ensure follow-through on the Department's part.

- **Recycling at Public Venues**

There was general agreement that recycling at the beaches and other places at Wildwood where people gather would not prove successful. The primary reason for that decision was the Tolland transfer station requirement that all items to be recycled must be rinsed clean. This is thought to be impractical given current resources and human nature in general. Another idea we explored was the concept of "Leave No Trace" which has been successfully deployed at some state and other public parks, like those of Mass Audubon. Part of this program is the removal of all trash receptacles after an information campaign and with appropriate signage. Although there was an understandable range of opinions on the issue, the group agreed to the following:

- **Ted** will follow up on an earlier discussion held with Jay and Mike and pose the idea of removing trash collection bins from the beaches, altogether. If they feel, based on their experience, it's a bad idea possibly exacerbating any current issues, the Committee will not pursue it.
- Should Jay and Mike feel it's reasonable to try, the Committee will formally recommend to the Board the trial removal of trash bins from Main and Meadow

Beaches. **Jane** has agreed to fill out the appropriate form, with the pros and cons, for submission to the Board if the idea seems to have legs. Again, any such trial would be accompanied by a well-thought-out information campaign and appropriate signage. Should we get to that point, **Doryce** volunteered to help monitor Meadow Beach.

- **Ted** will reach out to a contact at Mass Audubon to get an idea of how they launched their program and public response.

FY 2024 Budget Request

Based on the activity identified for the Committee so far, it was agreed that we would not submit a budget request for consideration.

Other Possible Sustainability Issues:

- We talked about the concern for erosion at the beaches and what if any involvement the Sustainability Committee should have. Sue explained the history of the issue and the formation of an Erosion Committee. One specific suggestion, raised by Jay, was that stopping the mowing along roadways would help reduce runoff. It would also reduce labor and power equipment emissions. **Sue** has agreed to take this idea to the Erosion and Pond Committees.
- A concern was raised that fallout from a state law dealing with lot size and septic capacity (# of bedrooms allowed) has created an opening for abuse of the Wildwood allowance for land purchase for the purpose of dealing with failed septic systems. Sue explained the procedures being revised to require Board review of all such purchases. The review is/will be done in the context of a last resort septic problem resolution issue only, not for other personal use.

Other Business

Doryce suggested and agreed to provide the introduction of the Sustainability Committee to all District reps.

Thank you all.

**WW Sustainability Committee Meeting
March 7, 2023**

Attending: Jane Glover, Susan Cutillo, Doryce Seltzer, Ann Fazi, Ted Hudson

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 via Zoom

- **Review of Ann's Septic Systems Newsletter Article Outline:**

The outline had been distributed prior to the meeting and Ann had agreed to answer any questions for the group prior to finalizing the article for April's newsletter. The Committee agreed the article will be submitted for publication.

- **Review, Discussion and Update of the Trash Task List**

The task list was reviewed and updated (see attached) with the following resulting from the discussion:

- Proposal clarification. The Proposal will specify the beaches involved (Main and Meadow), and the timeframe for the trial removal of trash bins (beach opening through the 4th of July Holiday Weekend), assuming no littering issues cut it short. At the end of the specified time (sooner if deemed unsuccessful), the Committee will confirm the results and so notify the Board. The Proposal will include that, if successful, the trial will be continued, at Main and Meadow, through the beach season. Any action beyond that would be subject to a new proposal from the Committee to the Board, for consideration at their discretion.
- Decision to continue, or not. The Committee recommends that the decision, based on ongoing observations (by maintenance staff, Committee members and interested residents) at the beaches involved, will ultimately be made by the Operations Manager. The decision to stop the trial, at any time, will result in the re-installation of trash receptacles at the Main and Meadow beaches.
- The group agreed the best theme for the trial would Carry In/Carry Out.

Ted will ask Charity to get the presentation of the Proposal on the upcoming Board Meeting agenda and to confirm that she agrees to the decision-making process, as outlined above.

Susan will be prepared to speak to the specifics of the Proposal at the meeting should questions arise. Please note: this does not indicate advocacy for the concept.

Jane has agreed to write, and distribute to the Committee for review, a brief article on the trial explaining the plan, its purpose and encouraging participation for the benefit of all.

- **Beach Signage (for the proposed trial)**

Having agreed to the theme Carry In/Carry Out, the Committee reviewed signage examples and chose, as a template, a sign used in Massachusetts (DCR) state parks and forests

(attached). Should the Board approve the proposal, **Ted** will work with Charity to have signs prepared for beach opening day.

Signs will also be needed for the bathrooms at Main and Meadow. These signs will indicate that only paper towels, not trash, garbage, etc. be disposed of in the bathroom waste baskets. **Ted** will circulate a sign sample for the Committee to review should Proposal approval be granted.

- **Ongoing Communications During the Trash Program**

We will inform the Wildwood Community of the Program's status by email just prior to beach opening (commencement of the Program), just after the July 4th Weekend and subsequent evaluation, and after the Labor Day Weekend assuming Program success and continuation.

- **Committee Transparency**

Susan will clarify with the Board if we may continue to do Committee business in the current manor, and if not what we might need to change to conform to Board requirements.

- **Other Business**

- The Committee agreed that the introduction of the Sustainability Committee to the District reps., written by Doryce with Committee input, would be submitted to the April newsletter as an introduction to the broader Wildwood Community.
- The Committee agreed to establish as the regular meeting time, the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 7:30, via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you all.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AUGUST 30

Present were Amy Gustman, Amy York, Sue Cutillo, Jane Glover, Doryce Seltzer and Ann Fazi

Ann Fazi will remain Chairperson

Sustainable yards part II next summer

The committee will continue to pursue **Carry in-carry out**

PLAN OF ACTION

Jane will do an outline of the proposal as well as steps to implementation for presentation to the board. She will share it with the group for input. A final copy will be completed by December to submit to the board in January.

If the board approves implementation of the plan, an educational article will be put in the April Newsletter.

Temporary signage would be placed at all beaches before Memorial Day

The Committee would like to pursue **Erosion control**

PLAN OF ACTION

Ann will contact Jan Tkacz

Ann will contact pond and forest committee to see if there is interest in working together. Perhaps an ad hoc committee could be formed

Focus on one beach per year

Amy G expressed concern about washing machine and dishwasher usage by those on the ponds contributing to possible algae blooms and pollution. There was discussion about water testing and reporting of any sewage smells. The committee thought that as a committee, we would like to request that Charity send out brief quarterly emails with “sustainability” reminders ...such as the use of environmentally approved laundry and dishwasher soaps.

The committee filled out the Committee Progress Report

Accomplishments – sustainable yards presentation, recycling discussion, carry in-carry out proposal, erosion mitigation

Upcoming – Sustainable yards part II, erosion control, carry in-carry out, education of membership on sustainability issues

Challenges – complex issues, common and private property concerns

September Meeting, we will try to meet in person in the clubhouse

Meeting adjourned at 7:25