

New London Green Party Meeting

February 9, 2018 – 19 Evergreen Avenue, New London

In attendance: Daryl Finizio, Mirna Martinez, Margarita Mogollón, Daniel Spurr, Bob Stuller, Ronna Stuller. Guests: Lynne Charles, Owen Charles, Eugene Woloszyn

The meeting was called to order at: 7:06 p.m. by Mirna.

- 1) Minutes from the January 7th meeting will be approved at the next meeting.
- 2) Treasurer's report: Income (from donations) \$514; Expenses (Jason Ortiz, Nationbuilder, property tax) \$539.20; Current balance is \$152.50. The Nationbuilder account has been put on pause until next election cycle. Report accepted for the record unanimously.
- 3) State Central Committee:
The Annual Meeting & Internal Elections will be held on Saturday, April 28; members should be receiving mailing in early April. Next SCC meeting is February 28. The grievance submitted by NLGP members has not yet been addressed, as the Dispute Resolution Committee is still establishing its procedures.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Outreach Committee/ Fundraising:
Spring fundraiser: Fundraising committee has not met; a tentative date of February 19 was suggested, Ronna will send out notice.
 - b) Town Committee:
2018 elections:
Statewide: The SCC has formed a search committee for candidates for US Senate, Attorney General, Secretary of the State, and Comptroller.
2nd District Congress: Eugene Woloszyn and Daryl Finizio shared information about their backgrounds, potential interest in running, and campaign strategies. Our timeline was not established, but will take into consideration that major party endorsements will be made in May or June.
CT Legislature: We have the ballot line for 39th district assembly, but are not sure we want to run a candidate against Chris Soto; the potential for cross-endorsement was discussed briefly. Daryl moved to refer the issue to our Town Committee, 2nd by Bob, passed unanimously.
 - c) New London Green Youth: No update
 - d) Environmental Actions:
A brief discussion ensued regarding the recent City Council Meeting and the initiatives to reduce solid waste, including the Acceptance of the PAYT study grant. Bob mentioned he looked at the Sustainable CT website and thinks they have a better program.
Mirna stated she put a blue bin up on the desk at the Board of Ed. meeting and made a plea regarding:
 1. Necessity of operations to make this recycling happen in the schools

2. Recycling promotion is much less complex than teaching and learning and they need to start marketing it such as showing visual images of teachers and students doing the right thing. The Mayor was at the meeting and spoke enthusiastically about the PAYT study program.

5) New Business: No new business.

6) Updates

a) State of the City:

A discussion of the next elections, candidates and announcement strategies were discussed.

b) Education and the Board:

With delays from the state, the Board still doesn't know what the cuts for the magnet program will be. They are in a real crunch to try to get a move on the budget. One interesting related issue is that a few weeks ago when the council had a finance committee meeting, Councilor Nolan was upset that the Board did not submit monthly financial information to Council. Mirna got in touch with Rob Funk and Jeff Hart about why? Funk said that Don Gray wanted the report in a different format, one that is coded and the format wasn't working related to grants received by schools. The delays were due to the fact that they were trying to figure out formats. Don Gray then said to go back to old format. Mirna stated that he then told council that the schools weren't submitting financials. So Mirna has started meeting 2x a month with Councilor Nolan. She explained to him that the financial documents she gets from the finance meeting are public documents and showed him that he actually has access to them. She also explained that that Gray and Funk are working on a separate document type. Mirna presented this information to the council to clarify the miscommunication. She later then received a call from Councilor Nartatez inquiring about the Board's responsibility to report the monthly expenditure report. She said Don Gray started talking about the issue after Mirna left and brought up some other issues. There was no opportunity at that time for a Board of Ed rep to discuss and explain. Mirna stated that the situation the Board is in currently is that they are repeatedly explaining the same topics and issues to City Council and the miscommunication and/or lack of transparent communication seems to undermine the Board and school budgeting process. Bob Stuller added that the City Risk Manager talked about some risk issues related to schools that the Board will likely need to address soon.

c) Riverside Park/NENL:

A vote on the readjustment of the border line between the school and Riverside Park is upcoming. Riverside Park Conservancy wants the land area previously transferred to schools to go back to the park so that if they get improvement grants, they can improve this area. The project for the stairs was rejected by the state when under schools domain.

d) Thinking Green:

Next show is with Maggie Redfern. Ronna also has a taped program of Mike Alewitz, now-posted on the website. Ronna asked Eugene to be on the program. He will schedule with her later. Then 55-minute show airs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. or can be taped ahead of time. Daryl was on a week ago with an attorney's view of the War on Drugs. The show has been on YouTube for 3-4 years.

e) Additional updates:

1. Shoreline East Hearing – the only one along the shoreline- is on Feb 28th at City Hall in New London, 5-8 pm, regarding raising the fares and cutting some services. The fear of service cuts is likely to reduce more ridership due to fear of getting stuck.
2. Bob went to the Sustainability CT informational session at Conn College – they also have a great web site. The program is for towns to become certified in any of 9 areas, including arts & culture. There are metrics – one of which is a city/town must have a "sustainability team". Bob was asked by City Planner, Sybil Theteh, to apply. Bob felt there was a lot of passive resistance to the Plan of Conservation so it is good that there is interest in the program and NL can already check off some of the boxes, such as LED street lights. In the program there is a lot more ways to show movement towards sustainability in addition to recycling and ties up loose ends.
3. The Community Land Trust event last Wednesday was well attended, with more than 40 people there and nearly a third was GP members. It was led by Joanne Sheehan, There was broad interest and people looking to have more affordable housing were present. Fresh is also taking up leadership due to open space inclusion and food resources. Also instability and repeated relocation of organizations that provide services leads to increased instability and disadvantageous situations for citizens. The Vermont model addresses permanent community space.

7) Announcements:

The film, Backpack Full of Cash, will be shown this Tuesday at Conn College Olin Science Center, Rm 014. It is sponsored by Re:Public Ed, NAACP, CEA and Conn College. The film is narrated by Matt Damon and pertains to the corporatization of our school system.

Motion to adjourn by Bob, 2nd by Mirna; meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m, at 19 Evergreen Avenue (6:30 potluck).

Approved on March 2, 2018.