

**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee
MetroCOG is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: June CTAC Meeting**

**Time: Jun 12, 2023 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84804906538**

**Meeting Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions Hannah Reichle**
	* Hannah Reichle – MetroCOG, Meghan Sloan – MetroCOG, Devin Clarke – MetroCOG, Gregg Dancho – Beardsley Zoo, Karen Burnaska – Monroe Conservation, Dylan Steer – Sustainable CT/MetroCOG, Mary Ellen Lemay – Trumbull Conservation/Aspetuk Land Trust, Tim Bishop – Fairfield, Cathy Fletcher – Bridgeport, Kelly Kerrigan – Stratford, Julia Pita – Sustainable Fairfield, Tatiana Solonvey – Trumbull, Ryan Boggio- LiveGreen, Mary Hogue – Sustainable Fairfield, Don Watson, Almariet Roberts- Groundwork Brdigeport, Sreya Monthecury – Sustainable Fairfield, Isaac Moore – Sustainable Fairfield
2. **MetroCOG Updates** **Hannah Reichle**
	* State of CT granted $8.8 million for Brownfield Assessment – MetroCOG received $500,000 and is seeking projects/sites for funding
	* MetroCOG is undergoing update to Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to be completed/adopted in 2024
		1. COG will be reach out to Towns to determine contact person
	* DEEP currently accepting applications for next round of Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) for the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program
		1. Contact Amy Paterson for info session
		2. In person Grant overview session Thursday June 29th @ 10am
	* Karen Burnaska requested updates on PFAS- MetroCOG will search more about the topic
3. **Sustainable CT Summer Updates Dylan Steer**
	* Dylan Introduced himself to the group and informed he is a resource for Municipalities looking for certification and recertification within the Sustainable CT program
		1. All MetroCOG towns are registered, however Stratford & Fairfield only Towns with Silver certification (highest designation)
		2. COG has access to their own equity coach at no Cost to Towns, ensuring projects and initiatives are done in an equitable manner
4. **Forestation in Bridgeport:**

**A Climate Smart Practice to Heal the Urban Landscape Mary Ellen Lemay**

* + Aspetuck Land Trust received a department of Agriculture – Climate Smart Farming and Forestry Grant
		1. Looking to bring some of Aspetuck and Trust into the Urban setting i.e. Bridgeport who recently completed large pollinator gardens
		2. Working with 7 Bridgeport Public schools on a 10x10 area
			1. Method of Forestry called Miyawaki Forests
			2. Working with Contractors called Planet Wild
		3. Links provided:
			1. Miawaki <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/12/designing-ecological-landscapes/public-gardens-and-parks/miyawaki-forests/>
			2. Urban Forestry Miawaki: https://urban-forests.com/miyawaki-method/
			3. 1000 trees for Trumbull

https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/994/1000-Trees-for-Trumbull#:~:text=1,000 Trees for Trumbull's goal,people and wildlife in Trumbull.

1. **Other Business: Upcoming Events Hannah Reichle**
	* Gregg Dancho
		1. Zoo will be installing pollinator pathways
		2. City received grants to install bike tracks at the Zoo/Park
		3. Installed Osprey nest close to park and there’s signs of promise with ospreys nesting there
		4. CT Rides assisting Zoo with getting a bus route/bus stop at the Zoo
	* Mary Hogue
		1. Fairfield – Sustainable CT Grant for composting in schools
			1. 2 years – 250K for composting
			2. Higher amount to be matched for composting which allows campaign to run longer since program is starting at beginning of summer
			3. Looking to expand the program to 5 schools
			4. Pumpkin composting started and diverted 6 tons towards thanksgiving rather than Halloween
	* Tim Bishop
		1. Town of FF working to geolocate tidal pools of confirmed and unconfirmed sites by creating a GIS layer
		2. Eagle Scout Troup 199 installed platform for ospreys in August 2022… seems to be getting attention from Ospreys
	* Mary Ellen LeMay
		1. Awarded Tree City certification from Arbor Day
		2. Joins Stratford Fairfield and Bridgeport and Monroe with being a “Tree City”
		3. Project launch of “1,000 Trees for Trumbull”
			1. Funding through town council secured, and $$ inkind through donations
	* Karen Burnaska/ Mary Hogue
		1. Provided group with updates to Environmental Legislative Session
			1. Lights out Program Passed – HB 6607 – all state owned must turn out lights by XX through 6am
			2. PFAS Legislation got passed, but watered down
			3. Horseshoe Crabs
			4. Balloon release – down to 10 balloon, but no enforcement
			5. Eel Grass passed…
			6. Watch list - <https://www.ctlcv.org/watchlist.html>

**6.** **Adjourn**

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