

Subject Branford environmental initiatives - Call for Interest
From Peter Hentschel
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Stony Creek POCD Group:

Since our group was formed as a way to get involved with the planning of the environment we inhabit, I thought you would be a good place to start with this "Call for Interest" regarding several task force groups that are now forming in the Town. (There is a special urgency in finding people interested in joining the CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE which needs to be energized - pun intended). But, let me know if you would like to be a potential member of any of these groups? So, here is a little information I am sending out about:

Impending Environmental Task Force Groups – Town of Branford

With the anticipated adoption of the **2018 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the recent resolution by the RTM to enroll Branford in the **Sustainable-CT** program, Branford is gearing up to turn **environmental aspiration** into **environmental action!** Working Groups, Teams, and Committees will be forming soon to move forward with the:

SUSTAINABLE-CT PROGRAM (S-CT)

COASTAL VULNERABILITY WORKING GROUP (CVWG)

POCD STRATEGIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC)

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE (CETF)

Turning concepts into actions will require the participation of many in our community – many who can offer a wealth of intelligence and expertise to address the tasks at hand.

A call for interest!

Let me know if you have an interest in serving on any of these task force groups (especially the Clean Energy Task Force, which is forming now), and I will put you in touch with those who will be forming each group. The structure, composition, and work-plan for each of these has not been finalized at this point. The Administration, BOS, RTM, and PZC may each play a role in moving these forward.

More about each initiative is attached:

Peter Hentschel, AIA

Branford RTM, District 2 Representative

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CETF - Clean Energy Task Force

<http://www.branford-ct.gov/content/141/189/875/default.aspx>

On March 8, 2006 the RTM adopted a resolution to commit to the State's "20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign". The resolution called for Branford to purchase 20% of its municipal electricity requirements from clean, renewable energy sources by the year 2010. A memorandum from the Task Force Co-chair to Unk Daros on 12/10/2009 reported that Branford had achieved that goal.

The Task Force has since become in-operative but is listed on the Town's Website. In recent conversations between Bill Horne, Shirley McCarthy and the First Selectman regarding re-establishing the task force (with a broader mission of moving Branford to green, clean energy via more solar on town buildings, replacing the town's cars as they age with electric vehicles, etc.) The First Selectman indicated that he will re-establish the Task Force soon with a call for public interest and involvement. Frank Gasparro will be a possible lead member of that group

CVWG - Coastal Vulnerability Working Group

[http://www.branford-ct.gov/filestorage/143/221/8653/Draft For PZC 092718 BL RFS.pdf](http://www.branford-ct.gov/filestorage/143/221/8653/Draft%20For%20PZC%20092718%20BL%20RFS.pdf) (pg. 40)

The 2018 POCD has proposed the establishment of a **Coastal Vulnerability Working Group (CVWG)** and identified several tasks for the CVWG to accomplish.

These tasks include to analyze and define the areas most vulnerable to rising sea level and storm surge, to assemble information about the likely costs associated with different responses to the problem, to develop a framework for addressing coastal vulnerability issues, and eventually (presumably working with the First Selectman, Finance Director and BoF) prepare a conceptual capital improvement program "to balance fiscal capacity with coastal issues/needs."

This was perhaps the most mentioned concern of people attending the POCD public listening sessions and is clearly an issue that should greatly concern the town moving forward. It also fits well within the Sustainable CT program scope.

POCD - Strategic Review Committee.

[http://www.branford-ct.gov/filestorage/143/221/8653/Draft For PZC 092718 BL RFS.pdf](http://www.branford-ct.gov/filestorage/143/221/8653/Draft%20For%20PZC%20092718%20BL%20RFS.pdf) (pg. 146)

The SRC was previously established as a Committee by Town Code but was never activated after the adoption of the 2008 POCD. The current POCD recommends reinvigoration of this group by the Board of Selectman and PZC. This committee would hold meetings regularly (quarterly or so)]. Their mandate would be to oversee and coordinate implementation of POCD recommendations, and evaluate progress being made to implement POCD recommendations. The POCD also recommends the SRC consider organizing POCD strategies into an implementation manual to facilitate tracking.



SUSTAINABLE-CT

<https://sustainablect.org/actions-certifications/action-categories/>

This program will be run thru the town by resolution of the RTM. First Selectman Cosgrove has assigned responsibility for the **Core Sustainability** Team to Terry Elton. Bill Horne has also been asked to be on the S-CT Core Team. Once formed, the Core Team of 5 or 6 members will be seeking Branford residents to identify and carry out specific projects within these following categories.

1. Thriving Local Economies

Supporting local businesses, increasing local jobs and revenues, and fostering energy-efficient and renewable energy-powered commercial and industrial buildings.

2. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

Establishing policies and practices that recognize our finite resources and that strive to achieve a balance of many users while preserving and increasing ecosystem health and resilience.

3. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

Distinctive, engaged and livable communities that shape people-centered places, provide robust artistic and cultural opportunities, and consider environmental impacts.

4. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

Balancing human development and resource use with a wide range of factors, including livability, economic opportunity, biodiversity and natural systems.

5. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

Allowing enhanced health, safety and access for all roadway users—including motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users—regardless of age, ability, income or ethnicity.

6. Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations

Including accessible municipal buildings with efficient operations, maintenance, and energy systems.

7. Strategic and Inclusive Public Services

Encompassing transparency, inclusivity, effective communication, appropriate events and training, materials management, and public health.

8. Healthy Housing Options

Diverse in both type and affordability, with efficient and renewable energy systems and located in thriving, livable, connected neighborhoods.

9. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

Deeply embedding equity considerations into municipal operations, building inclusiveness, community cohesion, and shared decision-making.

10. Implement Your Own Sustainability Action – Possibly a focus on Coastal Resiliency Issues

Innovate and implement meaningful sustainability actions not yet listed on the Sustainable CT action list. Become a model for others!

Informational Correspondence:

Impending Environmental Task Force Groups – Town of Branford

Call for Interest

With the anticipated adoption of the **2018 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the recent resolution by the RTM to enroll Branford in the **Sustainable-CT** program, Branford is embarking on community actions to implement forward thinking steps to protect our environment, become a sustainable community and guide the future development of Branford.

Turning concepts into actions will require the participation of many in our community – many who can offer a wealth of intelligence and expertise to address the tasks at hand.

Working Groups, Teams, and Committees will be forming soon to move forward with the:

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The structure, composition, and work-plan for each of these has not been finalized at this point. The Administration, BOS, RTM, and PZC may each play a role in moving these forward.

This is an un-official call for interest – either by you - or by someone you know who has expertise to offer and desires to participate in some aspect of these actions

More about each initiative is attached: