

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2025
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Johan Lopez, Chair; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Heather Dunn; Josh Goldstein

STAFF: Katie O’Leary, Brian Bidolli

OTHER: Tim O'Connor, Executive Director, Park City Compost Initiative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called as represented above.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alex Munoz
Mallard Road
Norwalk, CT

Mr. Munoz wanted to know who would be handling the composting opportunities. He also asked if the initiative would involve the school system. He mentioned the importance of upholding the mayor’s vision of being the greenest city and implementing the City’s sustainability plan.

Kelly Humiston
Wolfpit Avenue
Norwalk, CT

Ms. Humiston was hoping for insight from the committee on the mayor’s green city initiative and how it will be handled on a commercial and residential level.

Diane Lauricella
Little Fox Lane
Norwalk, CT

Ms. Lauricella talked about handling leaves and food waste. She also suggested the public who pays for the transport of the leaves and food scraps get a bucket load or bag of soil composted from them. She also mentioned the importance of having the schools involved in food waste collection.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: November 13, 2024

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on composting given by Tim O'Connor, Executive Director, Park City Compost Initiative

Mr. O'Connor presented a slide show. Featuring the following:

- What compost is and how it is made.
- The big picture plan of reducing food waste, feeding hungry people, and pollution and climate impact.

Mr. Lopez noted the U.S. is one of the largest generators of food waste worldwide. He stated it's quite an interesting paradox, that despite the high cost of groceries, the U.S. continues to generate high levels of food waste.

- A description of the differences between compost systems.
- Residential vs. Commercial compost operations. Mr. Lopez noted that several Norwalk Schools are conducting pilots and trying to revamp their composting program. Mr. O'Connor discussed compliance being voluntary and the lack of understanding when it comes to a well-managed compost operation.
- The economics and concerns of composting operations.

Mr. Lopez had questions about a recent law passed and asked how it was being monitored and enforced. Mr. O'Connor replied that the word about the law has been communicated to the

grocery stores but not anywhere else. He pointed out it was a matter of working with commercial haulers and investing in new systems so food scraps could be collected separately from other trash. Mr. O'Connor then described rules that had been removed from the new law. He also noted the creation of a website where anyone identified as a generator of 26 tons or more will have to self-report.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner had questions about the size of a potential operation. Mr. O'Connor described their Captains Cove Operation. He also mentioned they do a collection in Black Rock. In response to Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. O'Connor explained the difficulties with composting leaves. He noted they are looking for sites with hard surfaces to accommodate the necessary equipment. He also explained according to the state you can't compost at a transfer facility. Mr. O'Connor offered to share work about site planning.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services