

Preston Sustainable CT Team
Thursday, January 22, 2026
6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
Preston Ridge Vineyard- Tasting Room

1. Call to Order

C. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Regular Members

Gary Piszczek

Patti Monahan

Cara Sawyer

Terri Eickel- arrived at 6:04

3. Comments from the Public- No public present.

4. Communications- None

5. Old Business

a. Update on Action Items to target for Silver Certification

P. Monahan provided a color-coded tracker of items; still need items for 5, 7,9, and 12 to make sure there is an action from each category. Deadline of April 14.

- *C. Sawyer asked about the composting program for 9.4, P. Monahan reached out to N. Smullen for the tally previously and will reach out to the company for 2025 numbers, should just have to show the program is still active.*
- *G. Piszczek reported the CAC and PZC will be having an affordable housing workshop on Tuesday, January 27 at 5:30 and he will look for actions to discuss for 12.2.3's community conversation. 12.2.1 would need a resolution, which P. Monahan noted could take time. G. Piszczek will discuss with S. Allyn-Gauthier.*
- *T. Eickel needs to meet with K. Warzecha and S. Allyn-Gauthier for action 7, she met with her in October to discuss EV charging regulations, but has not heard back since. She discussed planning possible events such as an energy efficiency luncheon (20 points education event for small businesses) and an Energize Preston initiative to push for solar with incentive referral fees that could go back to the town, library, or senior center.*

- *G. Piszczek stated the Historical Society will meet on February 10 and discuss historic resources. He also discussed how 5.5.2 or 5.5.1 would be easy to achieve and he just needs a simple statement from K. Warzecha or S. Allyn-Gauthier for 5.3.5 to document efforts to preserve farmland.*
- *For action 7, P. Monahan will see if the building needs group did anything. T. Eickel also asked about 7.2 and the municipal building energy records, C. Sawyer said their must be solar panel records. T. Eickel will reach out to N. Smullen to see who would have records.*

6. New Business

a. Update on Submitted and Pending Items for Tracker

- *P. Monahan got documentation from N. Smullen about project on Matthewson Mill Road to show it was completed.*
- *C. Sawyer will focus on food waste action items and will ask about a commercial dishwasher at the schools for 9.5.*
- *T. Eickel will continue to focus on solar and energy audits. She said the EV charging regulations under 13 would be 5 points for the approval, changes would be worth more, but would also require more work.*
- *G. Piszczek will continue working on 12 with homelessness and affordable housing with the PZC workshop and discussions with K. Warzecha and S. Allyn-Gauthier. He will also work with K. Warzecha on the hiking and biking trails.*
- *P. Monahan will reach out to Parks and Rec and the Boy Scouts about possible youth-led sustainability projects. She will reach out to collaborate with the scout who did the trail the Garden Club has been working on as well.*

b. Discuss Equity Toolkit Options for Silver Certification

- *Discussion of 8.2 or 8.7. P. Monahan noted the strategic plan has some communication components to it. 8.7 would involve engaging with youth on sustainability projects. P. Monahan checked and Eagle Scout projects at the Community Park do qualify. She noted that the projects must be youth-led and cannot be an adult idea carried out. C. Sawyer checked with the school and they do not have an Environmental Club anymore, but she has the contact for student council.*
- *C. Sawyer discussed 4.2.10 or 10.1.3 for the other equity toolkit. Discussion of the school food drive donations, community garden donations, church food banks, and senior center mobile food bank for 10.1.3. Need to look into posting requirements.*

- *G. Piszczek asked about establishing bike trails for an equity toolkit for 6.5.1 and 6.5.2. He has a mapped out scenic route, hilly challenge, and time trial trail. P. Monahan discussed tying in bicycle education program and G. Piszczek suggested reaching out to Mystic Cycle. C. Sawyer noted they would need to ensure it was communicated and made public.*
- *T. Eickel asked if a virtual explanation would count as a community energy campaign, she will send her summary to P. Monahan who will check with Katie about it.*
- *Discussion about homelessness for action 12. G. Piszczek will have discussion at PZC on Tuesday, P. Monahan will reach out to trooper as they must be aware of any homelessness in town. T. Eickel will reach out to see if her contact has interest in being the designated person who could do trainings, even virtual. She will ask and P. Monahan noted it would need to go through S. Allyn-Gauthier.*
- *10.7.2 could do the equity toolkit with the Open Space at the Mary Dora Woodland and Community Park. T. Eickel asked if there were points for the Mitchell Reed preserve clean up. P. Monahan said she has all of the info, but the Mary Dora Woodland would be entirely in Preston.*

c. Total Points Review

The committee is currently at 395 points of the needed 500. C. Sawyer noted 105 points seems doable, just need to make sure they are in the correct categories.

d. Updates on Sustainable CT Board Vacancy

C. Sawyer had not heard anything yet. T. Eickel had thought someone had reached out and would follow up.

A special meeting will be needed before April 14 deadline. Monday March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Preston Ridge Vineyard to review status and make sure everything is on track.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hayes

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Preston Recording Secretary

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PRESTON, CT.

2026 JAN 27 P 3:44

Asst. *Cindy Palmer*
PRESTON TOWN CLERK