



P.I.E. Meeting Minutes Jan 31st, 2018 10:30am (teleconference)

Attendees: Robert Burg, Judy Preston, , Anna Weshner-Dunning, Cassie Bauer Jim Ammerman, MaryEllen Mateleska, George Hoffman, Harry Yamalis, Vicky O'Neill Katie Cubina, Leah O'Neill, and Leanne Bloom.

The committee has decided to initiate an opportunity where PIE members can briefly highlight a communications project that they are working on. This meeting, we highlighted MaryEllen Mateleska's presentation on the Mystic Aquarium's NFWF LISS Futures Fund Grant. The project/exhibit (hands-on watershed model) provides education and stewardship information relating to the Long Island Sound. MaryEllen may present at the next CAC meeting in March. Judy Preston presented on the success and progress over the last five years of the Master Gardener Coastal Certificate Program. 163 participants in 54 towns throughout CT have participated in the program, and has created a lot of opportunity for outreach.

Summer campaign feedback and suggestions for this year on encouraging people to bring renewables* to the beach. MaryEllen happy to collaborate on social media campaign. George Hoffman also is in support and also expand the campaign to others. Note the Suffolk County new bag law .5 cent for every store bag. Encourages people to bring their own reusable bag. Plan to reach out to Suffolk and Greenwich counties to discuss the implementation of the new bag fees. For the next meeting in April we want to think about other organizations that may want to join our campaign. Invite them to distribute information and/or be part of the network.

**I would like us to look into a pledge for people to bring reusable bottles, bags, and containers, and consider "carry-in, carry-out" ethos in beaches and coastal parks...Robert Burg*

Next meeting April 25th, 2018