

SLCP Meetup #30 Recap

January 5, 2023

Attendance:

Annemarie Gordon (SLI/SCLS)
Sara Fiorenzo (Lindenhurst Memorial Library, NY)
Laura Crisci (Mid-Hudson Library System, NY)
Hazel Onsrud (Curtis Memorial Library, ME)
Joanna Goldfarb (Ramapo Catskill Library System, NY)
Sue Dowdell (Springfield Town Library, VT)
Johanna Reinhardt (Butterfield Library, NY)
Linda Meglio (and team) (Harborfields Library, NY)

Ashley Maraffino (Valley Cottage Library, NY)
Wendy McIntosh (Lincoln Library, VT)
Danielle Minard (Comsewogue Public Library, NY)
Debbie Engelhardt (Comsewogue Public Library, NY)
Miki Porta (New Canaan, CT)
Mary Catherine Sudiak (Cranford, NJ)
Tim Sicurella (Sayville Library NY)
Jennifer Fowler (Sayville, NY)

SLI Announcements:

SLCP Meetups are a valuable space for our members. Annemarie is happy to ask questions to the group anonymously if you email them in advance to sliadmin@suffolknet.org or annemarie@suffolknet.org. Notes are taken during the meetup, but they are not recorded. Stating that a comment should be off the record (or emailing after) will remove any comments from the notes. Often our members are at a public desk or are pulled away during some portion of the meeting. We welcome our members to show up when they can, for whatever time they can.

We have two certification submissions to celebrate. Montauk Library and Curtis Memorial Library have submitted their completed Action Item Forms. The SLI team is forming evaluation committees and will be evaluating these Action Item Forms, will ask for revisions, and then reevaluate before announcing their certifications. There are several other libraries that are over ¾ of the way through their Action Item Forms also. We expect this to be an exciting year!

Introductions and Updates:

Tim (Sayville) Working through the certification process, about 20% complete. Meeting with local Rotary Club to ask for money for removing a section of lawn and planting native plants. They have also reached out to the local garden club, village improvement association to try to find partnerships on this project.

Wendy (Lincoln, VT) Lincoln is a very small, but thriving library. Director is the only full-time paid staff member. They are part of the Vermont Cohort (nine libraries working through the process together). They are upgrading their heating system and received a grant for solar

panels. Working on the “Girl Scout Badges” to see what can be identified and checked out while out for medical reasons.

Sue (Springfield, VT) Received an ARSL Sustainability grant to participate in certification and add an edible garden to grow food for the town food shelf. They are also looking into hydroponics.

Miki (New Canaan) making slow progress. There is a tug between documenting and doing the work.

Sara (Lindenhurst) library is certified and continuing to work on sustainability. They just finished a big renovation and are re-starting their seed library, garden, and little free pantries. They are starting to meet again and may look into the recommended items on the action item form to see what else they can complete.

Laura (MHLs) Sustainability Coordinator for system and mentor for libraries in that system. Listening and learning.

Johanna (Butterfield) 5% done and feels like they should be farther along. There have been staffing changes and are hoping to find one person to take over the documentation and steer the certification work. “2023 will be our year”

Harborfields Team (Harborfields) offered advice to meet with your mentor. They have gotten many ideas and a lot of support. The Trex Recycling program has been great. They earned two benches and are on their way to a third. So far, they have donated one to their local community garden and might raffle the next. Their work has inspired the Town of Huntington to recycle plastic film for Trex also. The work as part of the program has had a ripple effect out into the community. They are hosting their first repair cafe in January and wondering if any other libraries have had liability issues or had participants sign a waiver?

Sara (Lindenhurst) Paperwork provided by programmer stated that volunteers might not be able to fix or return items in the same condition. No guarantee of fixing things. Items are already broken, so the effort is to try to keep things out of the landfill, but they are not always successful.

Hazel (Curtis) offered to share the wording that they used.

Annemarie (SLI) mentioned that there are forms available on the SLI Website:
<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/repair-cafe-webinar>

Jennifer (Sayville) Director, Asst Director is more involved, but she works on policies. The program and Asst Director, Tim, has led her to change her own personal habits. She and her husband now recycle their plastic film. She has become more aware of the environmental impacts of her actions.

Hazel (Curtis) Submitted their form for certification. She worked on half of the form and the rest was done by others. She works on Programming. This morning the library gave away a number of items from their Library of Things that had not been circulating. They are being given to other libraries in the area. They also had a display for [International Human Solidarity Day](#) where they asked their community to vote on what climate solutions programs to invest in through [Kiva](#) loans. They picked four winners and will be making those investments. She suggested contacting the Climate Business Lobby, who are happy to talk to libraries.

Debbie (Comsewogue) Certified. Served as an Advisor to the coordinators, currently looking to recruit new members to the Green Team and make an invitation to join part of the employee onboarding process.

Danielle (Comsewogue) they are restocking their seed library for the spring and hoping to include native seeds.

Ashley (Valley Cottage) from Rockland County, NY. Lots of starts and stops so far. Looking to hit the ground running in the new year. Question about solar panels:

Sue (Springfield) Their town gets solar credits, so while solar panels are environmentally advantageous, it is not economically feasible for them.

Hazel (Curtis) Curtis is waiting for funding for solar. Held a panel discussion with representatives from local solar and community solar providers. Gave lots of information for their community. Community Solar may be a good option for many, but watch out for companies that will re-sell the solar credits to other companies looking for credits.

Debbie (Comsewogue) Brentwood and Lindenhurst are two libraries on Long Island that have solar panels. It may be good to reach out to them to get their advice.

There was also some discussion about promoting the library's sustainability efforts to the community. Web pages and social media posts were mentioned. Also newsletter and blog posts. A resource page for members on the SLI website will be coming soon.

Annemarie (SLI) also mentioned the Carbon CREW program that brings community members together to evaluate their carbon footprint and make a plan to take action. It can be run virtually and, if libraries are interested, staff could go through the program and facilitate these groups in person. Website: <https://www.carboncrewproject.org> or email Annemarie (annemarie@suffolknet.org) for details.

Links from the Chat:

Curtis Memorial Library Library of Things (in response to question about Repair Cafe Waivers): <https://curtislibrary.com/library-of-things/>

Curtis Memorial Library: Solar Electricity Options Program Recording:
<https://vimeo.com/61388871>

Carbon CREW: Carbon Reduction Book Clubs: <https://www.carboncrewproject.org>