



Sustainability Commission

Economy • Environment • Society

Think long-term, act now

“Community Sustainability is the commitment to adopt practices that support and balance the social, economic and environmental aspects of our region, now and into our future.”

Groton Sustainability Commission, Winter 2010

Meeting Notice

Meeting Notification Date: Friday April 19, 2013
Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2013
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM
Meeting Location: Selectman's Meeting Room Groton Town Hall
Meeting Type: Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Agenda:

1. Presentation Helenes' Stables in re "Barn Day"
2. Progress report Groton Climate Action Day – Lisa Weisner Lead Discussant (guests can be invited)
3. Groton Response to the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report, Identifying actions Groton can do – Leo Laverdure Lead Discussant (guests can be invited)
4. Energy Waste assessment – Chris Christie Lead Discussant.
5. New Business not foreseen at the time of posting.
6. Adjourn

Next meeting May 28, 2013

Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2013

Commissioners Present: Carl Canner, Leo Laverdure, Susan Daniels and Jane Morriss.

Special Guest: John Balco

Audience: Helene from Helene Stables, Bruce Easom, and Carol Canner.

Although there was no quorum present, John Balco gave a talk about the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report and discussed the importance of taking steps to prepare the town and the area to meet the challenges of weather patterns that are increasingly ferocious and extreme. This meeting was devoted to goal setting around short and medium term goals related to addressing climate change by supporting Groton's "Climate Action Day" and Groton's response to the recently released Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report. Long-term goals related to the development of the "Groton Sustainability Plan" and how the new language of Sustainability can be integrated into our plan. Period of Performance for these goals is 2013 – 2014.

Some of the suggestions John Balco made included:

Groton Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes for March 5 2013

- Inventory possible hazards and develop a hazard mitigation plan. There may be grant monies available to help with this.
- FEEMA recommends that towns and families have a three-day plan to deal with power shortages, possible evacuations, road closures, as well as food and water shortages.
- Put together a citizen emergency response team that is trained in first aid and other basic skills.
- Promote the importance of getting to know your neighbors and developing neighbor-to-neighbor support in cases of emergency.
- Make sure that strategic supplies and equipment are kept on high ground.
- Write by laws that require emergency backup generators at all cell towers.
- Keep utilities above flood plane zone.
- Develop public health plan.
- Inventory people with special needs and plan for prescription drug coverages.
- Plan emergency shelters that can take animals as well as people.
- Protect the water supply from contamination.
- Have mold mitigation plans.
- Make sure flood maps are up-to-date and don't allow building on flood planes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.