



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: Wednesday February 19, 2014

Meeting Date: Tuesday March 25, 2014

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM

Meeting Location: 2nd floor lunch room – note change

Type: Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Agenda:

1. Pollinator Preservation Project Report – Lisa Weisner/Carl Flowers/ Alison Dolbear
2. Groton Dam/riverbank erosion survey report - Carl Canner
3. Groton Climate Change Adaptation subcommittee report – Leo Laverdure
4. Happiness/Wellbeing Initiative report – Michael/Jane – Includes discussion of Happiness Week
5. RiverFest/Grotonfest participation
6. Fundraising needs and plan
7. New Business not foreseen at the time of posting.
8. Adjourn

Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2014

Commissioners present: Michael Roberts, chairman; Carl Canner, Carl Flowers, Leo Laverdure, and Lisa Wiesner. Jane Morriss was also present, serving in the role of communications liaison. Member Alison Dolbear was absent.

With a quorum present, the meeting officially convened at 7:35 p.m.

The purpose of our lives is to be happy. [Dalai Lama](#)

Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions. [Dalai Lama](#)

1. Pollinator Preservation Project Report – Lisa Weisner/Carl Flowers/ Alison Dolbear

The Pollinator Preservation Committee (Alison, Carl F., and Lisa) met with a delegation from Florence Roche Elementary School and presented a synopsis of the intended school pollinator project. The school delegation included Principal Liz Garden, and the organizer of the FloRo Garden Project from the PTA (Tiffany Doggett). The meeting went well and the school delegation will present a synopsis of the intended project so that final decisions can be made. Alison got an application to apply for an educational grant of \$500.00 (or less), and Tiffany said that the PTA could approve a \$300 grant as well. It is important to label the plants in the garden, as it is to be used as a teaching garden.

ACTIONS: Develop a work plan and budget \$800 for school pollinator project with emphasis on plants that flower as well as vegetables; write an article for newspaper and to run in the Florence Roche newsletter.

Develop a list of pollinator plants for the Garden Club (Camilla Blackman) and talk about the importance of planting pollinators in the town's parks, as the Garden Club influences many of the planting decisions and cares for the gardens.

Develop a list of plant materials and seeds that we can give to everyone, and even post on our website.

DATES: March 29th: Pop-up gallery Day to publicize the importance of planting flowers that nourish and sustain our pollinators.

April 17: Evening with Jane Bouvier

April 27th: Groton Local Earth Day (Lisa plans to have a table offering seed packets and literature.

2. Groton Dam/riverbank erosion survey report - Carl Canner (Tabled)

3. Groton Climate Change Adaptation Subcommittee report – Leo

The Groton Climate Change Adaptation Subcommittee met on March 11th with four people attending: Leo, Carl F. and Lisa from the GSC, and Monk Archenbault from the Nashua River Watershed Association). The meeting went well and they will be roughly using the Governor's Climate Change report along with an eye to keeping projects "affordable." The subcommittee will meet again at 7:30 pm on April 17th.

ACTIONS: Meet with relevant town boards and committees to raise the consciousness levels of the people serving in those groups about the importance of considering changes in our weather patterns ("weather chaos") when making policy decisions.

Begin working to develop a warrant article to be presented to Fall Town Meeting.

Talk to the FinCom and ask: “What would you need to see in order to give us support.

4. Happiness/Wellbeing Initiative report – Michael/Jane – Includes discussion of Happiness Week

We need to stay on top of our commitments to one another and think about how we can best promote practices that build in a sense of planning for the wellbeing of the people who live in our community. This is a year-long commitment and not just one day or one week. The Happiness Initiative survey was not taken by one single person from Groton last year. We need to figure out how to raise awareness of this initiative in our community.

ACTIONS: Meet to discuss what happiness and wellbeing mean in the context of our community and then come up with a tangible plan to support those objectives.

Develop handouts that can be used at various town functions and on our website.

5. Earthday, RiverFest, and GrotonFest participation

The Commission agreed that we should participate in each of these events to help raise awareness of our objectives. It is important that each of our subcommittees develop written materials and resource lists that can be handed out at these events. The first event (Earthday) will be held at the Williams Barn April 27th.

ACTION: Come to the meeting on April 22 with drafts of materials we will be disseminating.

6. Fundraising needs and plan:

What can we do if we have no money?

Develop high-profile projects. It may be easier to get funding for specific projects than to fund the Commission.

We could also develop a website that would help promote our projects.

Host a film series at the Library to promote an awareness of our various initiatives.

Host a river safari (by canoe and kayak) to view visible changes in the Squannacook and Nashua Rivers that affect the town.

Publish a series of articles in the paper and on our website that raise the profile of our various initiatives.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting will convene at 7:30 April 22nd .

