

Sustainability Commission Minutes January 20, 2015

Commissioners present: Michael Roberts, Leo Laverdure, Alison Peterson, Bruce Easom, Carl Canner, and Carl Flowers. With a quorum present, the meeting convened at 7:02 pm.

Web access – Michael

The sustainability commission now has web pages on the town website. The town webmaster will be responsible for maintaining these webpages for the commission initiatives.

NWRA debrief – Michael

A meeting was held at the NWRA to get communications started in areas of overlapping interest between the two groups. It was decided that we will have a link to them on our webpage to allow cooperation on public education and field trips. We will also cooperate with them on concerns we share on streams and rivers. An increase in storm flow is needed to prevent salt from building up in rivers and causing damage to greenways.

Groton climate Change Adaptability Report – Leo

The Metropolitan Boston Regional Climate change Adaptation Strategy Report has been released. Leo is reading it. Some of the report projections are for more winter water that will cause flooding, and much less summer water that will cause drought. We will have far more days with temperatures over 90 degrees. The number of days with temperatures over 100 degrees occurs once per year on the average now. This may increase to 20 days per year in the future. In one century, our climate will be the same as South Carolina, if emissions continue at the current rate.

Five year grant – Carl flowers

He will be involved in a study to understand why pollinators are disappearing. He has purchased clover seed to plant for pollinators.

Sabine Woods erosion – Carl Canner

He showed photographs that document erosion occurring at Sabine Woods near Groton Place. The river is undercutting the banks and tree roots are being exposed. Some of the trees have fallen over and some have died. The erosion is accelerating as storms are occurring more frequently. They are occurring every 20 years rather than every 100 years as in the past. Some type of bank stabilization technology is needed. Riprap has been tried by the Groton Conservation commission. Perhaps NWRA may be able to help.

Sustainable gardening course – Alison

I am preparing to teach a Landscape for Life course. It is a PowerPoint presentation sponsored by the US Botanic Garden and the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Rain barrel sale – Alison

The Commission is partnering with the Great American Rain barrel Company of Boston to provide a sale starting in March and ending in May. The rain barrels are offered at a 40% discount off retail price and will be delivered to Groton free of charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.