

Sustainability Commission Minutes May 30th, 2017

Commissioners present: Michael Roberts, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Bruce Easom, Carl Flowers, and Carl Canner. With a quorum present, the meeting convened at 7:10 pm.

All articles that we supported passed at the Spring Town Meeting.

Pollinator Preservation Project Report – Alison

Rep Dykema is reintroducing an Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators by restricting the sale and use of harmful neonicotinoid pesticides. She needs co-sponsors so we sent a letter to the memberships of many garden clubs asking them to contact their Representative to urge them to co-sponsor the bill HD 2382.

She joined the Pollinate New England program currently being developed by the New England Wildflower Society. The goal is to teach and encourage homeowners to plant diverse systemic pesticide-free native plants that support a wide variety of pollinators throughout their life cycles. She will give design advice to interested Groton residents as the program progresses.

Dam/riverbank erosion – Carl Canner

He will attend a NRWA presentation on “Climate Trends in Massachusetts and their impact on River Behavior” on June 1st.

Happiness/Wellbeing Initiative Report – Michael

The Happiness/Wellbeing survey has been taken by 80 people. A bigger sample is needed.

Agricultural Initiative Progress – Carl Flowers/Bruce Easom

Bruce will get on the agenda for the Agricultural Commission and renew his offer to help with the permitting process for new farmers.

He has been deputized to look into an agricultural well at Baddacook Farm on Martins Pond Road. There is no water source at the site. A well would turn the site into productive agricultural land for new farmers. The town is paying the mowing cost to maintain the site. The cost of mowing would be saved if the land is farmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.