

Sustainability Commission Minutes July 18th, 2017

Commissioners present: Michael Roberts, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Bruce Easom, Carl Flowers, and Carl Canner. With a quorum present, the meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

May 30th minutes were read and accepted.

Groton Climate Change Adaptation Report – Michael

The report is ready to distribute to town organizations. He will ask them to review it. In the future he will call a meeting of department heads to discuss it.

Pollinator Preservation Project Report – Alison

She staffed the Sustainability Commission booth at Riverfest in June. She discussed our work with the people who stopped by. Three people signed our volunteer interest list. Due to the extreme drought and the West Groton watering ban plants were lost at the SC pollinator habitat at the COA. She installed replacement plants in June. More are needed.

Dam/riverbank erosion – Carl Canner

He reported that there has been an increase in the intensity and frequency of storms and flooding in the New England region that has caused erosion. This needs remediation or in 10 to 20 years the Nashua River will start flowing down Rte 225. He will write a letter describing the problem.

Happiness/Wellbeing Initiative Report – Michael

The Happiness/Wellbeing survey has been taken by 80 people. A bigger sample is needed. He will decide how to do this by the end of the year.

Agricultural Initiative Progress – Carl Flowers/Bruce Easom

Bruce made another visit to the Agricultural Commission and renewed his offer to help with the permitting process for new farmers. He will return when there is a quorum present to get agreement on this. He will set up a joint meeting between the Sustainability Commission and the Agricultural Commission.

Carl will prepare an agenda for a public meeting to discuss farm issues including keeping farming affordable and inheritance taxes.

Fundraising – Alison Peterson/Carl Canner

They met with Mark Haddad to follow up on a previous meeting with the selectmen. He agreed to put an article on the fall town meeting warrant asking for funding.

New Business - Carl Canner

Copies of the Doomed Earth Catalog were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

