

Sustainability Commission Minutes December 19th, 2017

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

October minutes were read and accepted.

Groton Climate Change Adaptation Report – Michael

He plans to distribute this document with a cover letter and then have a meeting to discuss how to implement the ideas.

Pollinator Preservation Project Report – Alison

Dean Marsh, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 1, and members of the troop will be helping with the monarch butterfly breeding habitat at Groton Place this spring/summer. This project has been on hold due to the extreme drought that is now over. We expect to complete it this year and help bring the monarch butterflies back from the brink of extinction.

Groton Dam/Riverbank Erosion Report – Carl Canner

He showed photos of large trees down in the river caused by erosion. He is collecting evidence that changes are occurring that will affect culverts. We have had more floods and greater water flow in this area. More study is needed.

He has also planted a wildflower pollinator habitat on Townsend Road in West Groton. It involved removing invasive alien plants and has both environmental and aesthetic value.

Agricultural Initiative Plans – Bruce Easom/Carl Flowers

He will attend an Agricultural Commission meeting in January to find out how the Sustainability Commission may be able to help them. Agricultural land is being lost in areas where affordable housing will be built.

We will look into the possibility of building a pollinator corridor along Farmers Row.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.