

Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 1921

I. Call to order

Alison Peterson opened the meeting at 7:10PM.

Attendees were as follows:

Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chairperson)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Marina Khabituyeva

Bruce Easom

Deborah Wakrat (new member)

Phil Francisco (new member)

Ginger Vollmar (new member)

Becky Pine (Select Board)

II. Open issues

- a) Concerning the need for new members, Alison reported that there have been six people who have shown interested in joining the Sustainability Committee.
- b) Bruce asked about a Climate Resiliency Report. Alison reported that Leo L. put one together years ago. She has a copy and will send it to Bruce. Becky mentioned that the Nashua River Water Shed Association site under “What we do” there is a page on Climate Change and the NRWA.
- c) Alison gave an update on the Pollinator Garden. The summer and fall plants have been planted. The spring plants have moved to next year as it was not possible to get the spring plants in time for this year.

III. New business

- a) Alison brought up three new initiatives going on in our area. She would like us to review these items before the next meeting.
 - (i) Alison read part of Governor Baker’s statement when he signed the Climate Roadmap Bill in March 2021. This bill provides future goals to address climate change in Massachusetts.
 - (ii) Also, the Green Future Act (H.3292) which would provide aid to cities and towns to help meet these goals.
 - (iii) The Regional Climate Change Collaborate is led by Margaret Scarsdale (Chairperson, also on the Pepperell Select Board). They are trying to get 35 communities from Lori Trahan’s district to collaborate on climate

change. Do not know if changes in the Congressional District will affect this forum.

- b) Becky reviewed the process for new members to be official part of the Sustainability Committee. The process includes:
 - (i) Filling out interest form,
 - (ii) Review by current members,
 - (iii) Select board can interview and appoint,
 - (iv) Sworn in by the Town Clerk,
 - (v) Taking online class for Conflict of Interest Law and Open Meeting Law

There has been great interest since it was announced that climate change is part of our charter. We currently have six people interested in joining. It is noted that new members can participate right now.

- c) Introductions were made as each participant was able to express their interest in this commission.
- d) Ginger brought up the new elementary school that is to be built did not consider climate control matters. GELD made a proposal and wanted the school to go all electric. The battery energy storage system which would provide backup energy passed. The solar panels on the roof did not pass and the school will be using gas.
- e) Bruce offered to help out with the grant writing as he has a lot of experience in this area. There also was discussion on whether or not there should be a class on grant writing.
- f) Bruce also mentioned that he has a solar installed on his house. Phil also has solar on his house. Both are willing to talk to people about installing power. Bruce said maybe it would be possible to provide the town with “neutral” information on how it can be done. Maybe a class at Prescott?
- g) Agenda for November
 - (i) Letter to nominate people to become members. If more people apply, invite them to our next meeting.
 - (ii) Meeting minutes.
 - (iii) Ginger has fifteen items concerning climate change that she would like to bring to our committee.

IV. Adjournment

Alison adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.
Recording was sent to the Groton Channel

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner

Minutes approved by: