

Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2022

I. Call to order

Alison Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Attendees were as follows:

Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chairperson)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Deborah Wakrat Schwartz

Phil Francisco

Ginger Vollmar

Jim Simko

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting were approved.
- b) Alison reported on the Pollinator Habitat. Last year Covid caused a shortage in plants which Alison had hoped to incorporate into the habitat. She expects to finish planting this year. She is currently working with Ashley Shaheen (Director of Center) and Tom Delaney (DPW Director) to make sure all guidelines are followed.
- c) Alison asked for volunteers for The Regional Climate Change Collaborative. This group would allow one representative (one vote) per municipality. The Groton Select Board is supportive of this project. Phil Francisco and Ginger Vollmar volunteered to attend these meetings and report back.
- d) Alison reported The Green Future Act (H.3292) is still being worked on by the state. It was suggested that if members are interested, they could sign in support of this bill.
- e) Phil reported on the Nicotinoid spray use in Groton. In 2022 the State has made it mandatory that all towns must use the Nicotinoid spray in order to keep the mosquito population down. The only way out of this mandate is for the town to do a sweep and educate all town residences to commit to emptying all standing water. This would limit the habitat for mosquitos to breed. There are one or two towns who have been able to opt out. Phil will talk to Becky Pine in order to let the town select board make a decision on this matter.

III. New business

- a) Ginger Vollmar would like to let the town know that we are looking at climate change. She would like to send a list of things that the people of Groton can do to lower carbon footprint. Ginger volunteered to send a list to the members and ask for their input. Jim

Simko asked to add the use of LED light bulbs to the list. At our next meeting we will review and, if approved, Ginger would submit to the newspapers.

- b) Bruce Easom was not able to attend the meeting, but we are looking forward to his report on the Country Club electric golf carts.
- c) Phil and Bruce will work to hold an information class on Solar power at Prescott. This is slated for late spring or early summer.
- d) Ginger brought up food scrap collection. She will reach out to the schools and restaurants in the area to see what sort of process they currently have in place.
- e) Catherine Daly, a sophomore at Groton-Dunstable has requested our help with her Eagle Scout project. She would like to do something pertaining to sustainability.

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner

Minutes approved by: