

Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

I. Call to order

Phil called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Attendees were as follows:

Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chairperson)

Phil Francisco (Vice Chair)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Bruce Easom

David Southwick

Deborah Wakrat Schwartz

Ginger Vollmar

Jim Allen

Jim Simko

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with suggested changes.
- b) Phil attended the last NC4 meeting. There was a discussion concerning the NC4 (North Central Climate Change Coalition) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document. It is important that the NC4 continue to have open meetings. There was a lot of concern that if the NC4 discontinued the zoom meeting then some of the towns would no longer be able to participate and the meetings would no longer be open. It is important for towns to join in and advocate for changes that need to be made to fight climate change and have more influence at a state level. A motion was put forth that we recommend to the Select Board to enter into a MOU to join NC4. The motion was moved and seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.
- c) Funding for projects was discussed. Katrina reported on how much funding we currently have (\$48) and what the town process is to receive and distribute funding. David talked about fund raising and what are our goals. Phil asked the members to think about what we would like to accomplish in the near future and come back with suggestions at our next meeting. Jim Allen has done a write up looking at area towns and our town. He will share this information which will be helpful in deciding on our mission.
- d) Ginger made changes to the Climate Change Article. She would like to submit it for publication to the Groton Herald, Groton Facebook Page and the Town Web Page. Motion was moved to approve this action and seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Good job Ginger.

- e) Alison reported on the Pollinator Habitat. The DPW has not moved the pavers to the garden site. She worked with the boy scouts to get the underlayment done. The garden is going well.
- f) Bruce called the Middlesex Abatement and they were very enthusiastic. They suggested that we have a day when everyone can bring in old tires for free, but warned that a disclaimer be put on the collection so tires can be rejected if someone brings in too many tires. Bruce was able to see the process used when disposing of the old tires. He is going to continue to look into this project.

III. New Issues

- a) A couple of announcements were made. The town library is having presentations on Informative Climate Change for four weeks starting Tuesday, April 26th. This coming weekend is the Town Clean Up. There will be a Candidate forum on energy in the environment on zoom on May 5th.
- b) Phil brought up the matter that we should liaison with other groups in town. Maybe the destination committee would be interested in including sustainability.

Move was made to adjourn and seconded. Phil adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: