

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022

I. Call to order

Alison 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

Deborah Wakrat Schwartz

Ginger Vollmar

Jim Allen

Jim Simko

Andrew Scott (candidate to serve on Commission)

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with suggested changes.
- b) New business – Alison introduced Andrew and requested that he be added to the member list. A motion was made that we make a recommendation to the select board to appoint Andrew to the Sustainability Committee. The motion was seconded and then unanimously approved.
- c) Alison gave an update on the status of the pollinator habitat. The path and walkway are finished. More plantings need to be done to fill out the garden. She is looking for funding. The committee came up with a couple suggestions. The first was to talk David Southwick (who is helping with fund raising) at our next meeting. The second was to check with a local nursery to see if they will donate plants in exchange for a sign to be placed in the garden giving them credit for donating to the project.
- d) Bruce gave an update on the tire recycling project. He was able to get in touch with FBS Tire Recycling Inc. and got a price sheet for a container of \$800 for approximately 150 tires. Pick up will be before six weeks are up or they will charge \$40 a week. There was a word of caution that when putting out notices that free tire drop off is available, also make it known that Groton has the right to refuse some donations. This is necessary as the purpose is to clean up old tires left in Groton, but not at a business that does business selling tires. Bruce is willing to make a \$3,000 donation to fund the first year. He will approach the transfer station and the DPW to see if they are in agreement with this plan. If everything works out, there will be an assessment after the first year to review the statistics as to whether this is a viable plan.
- e) Alison reported on the NC4 meeting. NC4 approved the MOU document as written and approved the edits made to the letter to the select boards. Phil noted that we need to check with

Tony Beattie from NC4 to see when the letter will be sent out and then check with the Groton select board.

- f) A discussion was held on project fundraising planning. David had sent over a power point presentation. It included having a lights out weekend funded by four sponsors for \$2,000. The presentation showed expenses being \$1,250 which would net \$750 to be used for projects. It was decided that more details were needed and David's input was required before we could go any further. This discussion will take place at the next meeting.
- g) Phil brought up the discussion on our Mission and Charge. He stated that we need one to three projects to get funding and to go to the select board saying we need money to do these projects. Subjects included the following:
 - (i) What is our mission and charge? What are our short term and long-term goals? How can we use our position as advisers to help bring Groton to decrease our climate change impact?
 - (ii) What measurements do we use? How much is being used now? Do we reduce or try to hit zero?
 - (iii) There is a big education gap. How can we reach all the people in Groton (young and old)?
 - (iv) Should Groton be adding more solar arrays? Do we advise making new rules for more energy reduction in new buildings?

Jim Allen sent out a sheet of what surrounding towns have done towards climate change including mission statements, action overviews and charges. This review and comparison allowed us to see where we are in the process. Jim summed up by stating that our mission should include energy efficiency, energy reduction, renewal resources, pollinator projection and climate change adaptation.

Jim Allen and Phil will work to create a mission statement.

Move was made to adjourn and seconded. Alison adjourned the meeting at 8:39PM.

The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: