

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2022

I. Call to order

Alison called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

Attendees were as follows:

Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chairperson)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Bruce Easom

Ginger Vollmar

Jim Allen

Jim Simko

Andrew Scott (candidate to serve on Commission)

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- b) Andrew Scott gave a very comprehensive talk on Residential Water Heaters and the Use of Energy. He also gave out printouts that explained the different types of residential water heaters and energy use in the home. Jim Allen recommended that a program could be put together to present the information to the people of Groton. Discussion was then directed towards how can the committee educate the public. Andrew, Bruce and Phil will work on a plan to help get the word out.
- c) Alison Dolbear gave an update on the pollinator habitat. Maintenance has been needed most for watering and planting. Funding is needed to complete the garden. Suggestions were made as to how this could be accomplished. Getting the younger generation interested in climate change is something the committee is interested in doing. Alison mentioned that she has been getting a lot of compliments and that this should help with fundraising.
- d) Bruce gave an update on the Tire Recycling/Mosquito Abatement Update project. The next step would be to get buy in first from Tom Delaney (Groton Highway Dept), then the Recycle Committee and lastly from the Select Board.
- e) NC4 (North Central Climate Change Coalition) did not have a meeting in July, so there is no update.
- f) The Green Future Act. The legislature is not meeting until August. In July, the work of the climate committee seems to have stalled. Nothing to report.
- g) Discussion was held on climate change actions that has been done in surrounding towns and what lessons can the Sustainability Commission learn from them.

- h) Jim Allen has been working on the Sustainability Commission Mission and Charge. He passed out a draft copy of the charge. Jim also recommended a book called “The Natural Step” written by Karl-Henrick Robert. It talks about how changes must be done as a community and how it is necessary to have a master plan to push for sustainability projects in town. Allen asked that we read the draft charge and think about the future. At the next meeting, he requested that we discuss our thoughts concerning our mission statement and our goals. Also, we need to discuss what types of things can be measured. It is important that we be able to report to the town to show what changes have been made.

This led to a discussion about the Green Community in Massachusetts. One criteria is to monitor your energy growth which will tie you into grants having to do with the Green Community. Bruce Easom stated that in Groton there was a greens committee which recommended the select board to accept the green community act. Not sure what happened to the project after the initial start. Bruce will follow up.

Discussion of the Mission Statement and our goals are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Move was made to adjourn and seconded. Alison adjourned the meeting at 8:46PM.

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Center.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: