

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022

I. Call to order

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

Attendees were as follows:

Alison Dolbear Peterson (Chairperson)

Phil Francisco (Vice Chair)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Bruce Easom

Jim Simko

Andrew Scott

Ginger Vollmar

Deborah Wakrat

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the August 16, 2022 meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.
- b) NC4 (North Central Climate Change Coalition) update. The meeting was not held as they did not post it in time for open meeting. Next meeting is on September 21, 2022.
- c) Public Education Program Curriculum – There was a positive meeting at the Groton Grange. Phil, Andrew and Jim are scouting out contacts in the area to gauge the amount of interest and willingness to participate. Deborah Wakrat is a professor of sustainability and it was suggested that we reach out to her for suggestions. Although Deborah's work is at a graduate level, she is willing to share her information. The goal is to raise awareness and general competency on sustainability by getting the whole town on board of staying green. The educational sub-committee has a soft target of spring 2023 for classes (around Earth Day).
- d) Mission Statement Discussion – Phil worked up a new draft of the mission and charge. It was noted that there needs to be a balance of sustainability as well as having a growing town. Developing and growing pollinator habitats should be included. The mission should be more forceful in its statement. It is too soft on sustainability. We are on the verge of a natural catastrophe. Phil will be working on a new draft of the Mission Statement. Starting with the non-specific goals and working up to more specific plan to meet those goals is good.
- e) Alison Dolbear gave an update on the pollinator habitat. Hummingbirds have left and most of the plants are not flowering now that it is late in the season. Alison will start seeds and plugs in March for next year. EPA is digging up around the Center. And they will be done in the spring. Alison is trying to get them to take out some trees. Ginger will be the point person. We should be prepared to talk to them. Ginger will check with the Select Board to see when they will want to see us.

- f) Thanks to Bruce, the tire collection program will be happening on October 1st at the Transfer Station from 7am to 5pm for free. There was an announcement made at the board meeting. It will be in the Groton Herald. Also, two-minute segment at the transfer station was shot to be run on cable access with Bruce as the star. There is a Highway Department Gift Fund which can be donated to in order to keep collecting tires at the transfer station. There is a fee paid to the recycler to get rid of the tires.

Move was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Alison adjourned the meeting at 8:40PM.

The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Center.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: Sustainability Commission