

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

I. Call to order

Alison called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Alison Dolbear (Chairperson)

Phil Francisco (Vice Chair)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Jim Allen

Bruce Easom

Deborah Wakrat Schwartz

Andrew Scott

Jim Simko

Ginger Vollmar

Charlotte Weigel (being considered for alternate commissioner)

II. Open issues

- a) Minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.
- b) A discussion was held concerning attendance and minimum hours of participation which are required for members to stay on the committee. Alison will put this on the next meeting agenda.
- c) Alison introduced Charlotte Weigel and listed her background which makes her a good candidate to be considered for an alternate member position. Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the select board that she be appointed as an alternate member. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d) Tire Return Program Update – Bruce reported that the first tire return drive held on October 1st was a success. There will be another drive on November 5th. Bruce will work to notify people ahead of time. Ginger volunteered to help with getting the word out thru the media. The program will continue on the 1st Saturday of the month until the money runs out. There are a number of areas where tires have been dumped. Bruce will be working with Tom Delaney and the people who own the land to have these tires removed. It was suggested that a land owner pay two dollars a tire to have them removed. Bruce will be reaching out for an RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) which would determine if the Wetlands Protection Act or the Town Wetland Bylaw is applicable to the proposed work activity.
- e) Education Subcommittee Update – The subcommittee is pulling together a prioritized set of ideas of topics for various courses and information sessions and bucketing them into logical groupings to develop a curriculum.
- f) Mission Statement – Phil sent out the revised mission statement so that members could review it before attending the meeting. Discussion was held. Most members voiced approval of the

revised mission statement. There were some suggested changes. Phil implemented the changes that were agreed to and then proceeded to read the new mission statement. Motion was made and seconded to accept this new mission statement. The motion was passed unanimously.

- g) Alison recommended that those members interested should attend the Mass Citizen's Climate Forum on October 19th from 6PM to 7PM on zoom.
- h) Implementation of new Federal and State Climate Policies – Changes in these policies will affect home owners, non-profits, building codes and other businesses. How can we help our community with these challenges? Information is key in helping navigate these new policies. This led into the next topic on fossil fuel reduction.
- i) The new Federal and State policies led to Fossil Fuel Reduction Opportunities – What will have to be replaced in our town? The town should seek out grant opportunities. Our commission can help seek out grant information. Much discussion was held on roof top solar as far as how much it cost and if there are any grants for this type of work.
- j) Phil presented a list of topic ideas for the Select Board. This lead to further discussion as to other topics to talk about and how they should be prioritized. Decision was to use the November 1st meeting to prioritize and discuss the list.
- k) More discussion was held on Groton's carbon footprint. Green communities require an energy audit and a twenty percent decrease in carbon emissions.
- l) Discussion was held on two articles coming up at the next Town Meeting –
 - i) Article 11: Funding to Remove Building – 159 West Main Street – Motion was made that the sustainability commission support this Article 11. Motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.
 - ii) Article 12: Community Preservation Fund – Out of Cycle Application – Prescott Elevator - Motion was made that the sustainability commission support this Article 12. Motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Alison adjourned the meeting at 8:55PM.

The next meeting will be held on November 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Center.

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: Sustainability Commission