

# ***Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes***

November 1, 2022

## **I. Call to order**

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

Alison Dolbear (Chairperson)

Phil Francisco (Vice Chair)

Katrina Posner (Clerk)

Jim Allen

Bruce Easom

Andrew Scott

Jim Simko

David Southwick

Ginger Vollmar

Charlotte Weigel

## **II. Commission Meeting**

- a) Phil opened the meeting with a list of topic ideas to present to the Select Board. He suggested that we present to the Select Board the following:
  - i) Here are the things that we have done so far.
  - ii) Here are the things we want to do next
  - iii) Here is the commitment we want from the Select Board.
- b) The topics were put up on a board. Discussion was held and a few topics were grouped together. The committee was asked to vote on the topics which should be addressed first. The top six (in order of most votes) were as follows:
  - i) The Commission would like to play an active role in the new Groton Master Plan. Developing activities, working with Planning Board, Town Manager, Select Board as well as Destination Groton, GELD, and other commissions/groups, to ensure sustainability is a top priority in their planning.
  - ii) Ask the Select Board to support funding for the Sustainability Commission. Examples are for sustainability education, tire recycling at the Transfer Station, and maintaining/enhancing the Pollinator Garden.
  - iii) Work with Select Board to build preferential requirements for Green or even NET-ZERO Power/Heating/Cooling solutions for all new/major upgrades of public buildings. Work with the Select Board/Town Manager to apply for grant funds for installing solar on public buildings and to identify, pursue and apply for Green Community Grants for Town public projects.

- iv) Develop plan with Town Manager, Select Board and GELD on identifying potential 3<sup>rd</sup> party solutions for building a second solar power plant in Town.
  - v) Prepare the Town “Opt-Out Petition” for State Mosquito Spraying in 2023
  - vi) Transition all Town Departments to select electric, battery-driven power equipment (where feasible) when existing fleet/equipment needs to be replaced.
- c) Items to be followed up on are as follows
- i) **ACTION:** Sustainability Commission to play an Active Role in Master Plan & liaisons with other Town commissions/departments -- no background data collection is really required, but at the next meeting, we will decide which of us will be responsible for each of those liaisons.
  - ii) **ACTION:** Sustainability Commission to work with Select Board/Town Manager to identify projects and grant funds for installing Solar PVs on Groton public buildings and requiring new/major modifications to Public Buildings be Net Zero -- Charlotte, with Phil's assistance.
  - iii) **ASK:** Select Board support for funding for Sustainability Commission - for Tire Recycling, Pollinator Garden, Education/Information program, and Promotional info (\$10K -- \$15K)
  - iv) **ACTION:** Sustainability Commission will prepare and oversee the Town's "Mosquito Spraying Opt Out request", working with Board of Health, etc... – Phil
  - v) **ACTION:** Work with Town Manager/Select Board/GELD to develop plans and identify funding for a second major solar array for Town -- Bruce with Phil's assistance.
  - vi) **ASK:** Town to convert gas-powered equipment and vehicles to electric-powered alternatives, where feasible [phased in as equipment needs to be replaced] – Ginger.

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Alison adjourned the meeting at 8:48PM.

**The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Groton Center.**

Minutes submitted by: Katrina Posner, Clerk

Minutes approved by: Sustainability Commission