



Sustainability Commission

Groton Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday 18/Apr/23
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: The Groton Center; Rivercourt Room

Attendees: Alison Dolbear Peterson, Phil Francisco, Bruce Eason, Andrew Scott, Jim Allen, Jim Simko, David Southwick, Ginger Vollmar, Charlotte Weigel(via Cell connection)

Minutes:

Quorum Declared at 7:04 p,m, and meeting called to order.

- 1.) **Minutes from March 21st** meeting not completed yet, Bruce Easton to advise
- 2.) **GELD Customer Survey Questions Discussion:**
 - GELD is working with third party contractor, “Great Blue” to develop survey questionnaire to send out to rate payers. To date there is no timing nor focus on what the survey will cover. GELD is working to develop 10 core areas and advised C. Weigel that Sustainability Commission (GSC) should submit potential questions for consideration.
 - GSC discussed several concept questions, and a motion was made for C. Weigel to write 4 main topic questions for GELD survey. Motion by; Andrew Scott, 2nd by; Ginger Vollmar, Vote; unanimously approved.
- 3.) **Warrant Articles Handout Information Review:**
 - GSC original tri-fold handout with edits made to update has been submitted to the printer for distribution at Groton Town meeting. Cost approved by the Town Manager, and paid by Town.
 - An additional 1 page educational information flyer from the Education Committee has been submitted to the town for inclusion into taxpayer informational packets at town meeting. All agreed that both flyers were good and needed to spread the word of our environmental tasks ahead.
 - A motion was made for GSC approval of the flyers at town meeting. Motion by; Andrew Scott, 2nd by; Ginger Vollmar, Vote; unanimously approved.
 - A second motion was made for GSC approval of additional posters to be printed for display table at town meeting, and to approve the use of the presented Power Point presentation, with slight

graphic changes for ease of reading, at Town Meeting. Motion by; Andrew Scott, 2nd by; Ginger Vollmar, Vote; unanimously approved.

4.) Net Zero 2050 Roadmap Subcommittee Update.

- C. Weigel has given P. Francisco the information she researched, and he is still working on verifying the data for the town-wide GHG inventory.

5.) Education Subcommittee Update.

- P. Francisco provided the program layout and schedule for 12 sessions of related climate and environmental topics to be covered. Presentations to be held at The Groton Center, Rivercourt Room. Schedule and topics are available on town website and will be promoted through the Groton Herald, at Town Meeting and through social media.
- Subcommittee is still looking for presenters for Session 4. D. Southwick will check with his known consultants on the topics and advise.

6.) Groton Farms Discussion.

- This is the new development for rental units, including 40B, at the former NEBS site at the northwest corner of Groton on Rt.119, near the Nashua River. The developers' application has been submitted to Groton ZBA for review.
- Of note, facilities are to be all electric, however, no solar panel use is proposed by the developer. Groton ZBA has asked all town committees, commissions, and boards for input. The GSC discussion resulted in key areas and opportunities;
 - a.) Rainwater harvesting implementation for irrigation
 - b.) Gray water segregation and capture for irrigation/reuse
 - c.) Old growth tree maintenance and protection
 - d.) Minimization of grass lawn areas, use of native plantings
 - e.) Wildflower and pollinator habitat areas
 - f.) Meet Commonwealth of Massachusetts 'Dark Sky' initiative
 - g.) Use of motion detectors for lighting as much as possible in public, and parking areas
 - h.) Consider solar heating panels of indoor pool and hot water
 - i.) Dog park should include on-site composting, also include organic food waste
- A. Scott will work on developing a response for the Groton ZBA request and work with P. Francisco for wordsmithing and submittal. All comments to be submitted to ZBA@Grotonma.gov.

7.) Climate Reality Project Training

- A. Dolbear Peterson has completed courses of the training and will focus on reviewing Federal and Commonwealth laws for benefit of town resident rebates and financial assistance.

8.) New Business.

- Discussion was held on update of latest GELD meeting where they agreed to buy power strips from Seabrook Nuclear Power.
- P.Francisco advised that Deborah Wakrat has resigned from the Commission.

9.) Adjourn.

- Motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., motion by P. Francisco, 2nd by A. Scott, Approval; All

Respectfully submitted,

– Jim Allen

Approved by Groton Sustainability Commission, May 16, 2023.