



Sustainability Commission

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, October 30, 2023
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: Groton Center

Attendees: Alison Dolbear Peterson, Pat Parker-Roach, Jim Simko, David Southwick, Charlotte Weigel, Jim Allen, Ginger Vollmar, Phil Francisco

Minutes:

Called to Order– 7:00 pm

- **Consider alternate date for November Commission meeting – currently, November 21st (ALL) [5 min]**
 - The group agreed to change the November meeting date to November 28th at 7pm
- **Finalize Calendar Year 2024 Strategic Planning & Priorities, Part 2 of 2 (ALL).**
 - All of the initiatives for 2024 were listed on the wall
 - Members who proposed an initiative were allowed to provide supporting information about the initiative, including more details and the rationale for proposing
 - A few initiatives were automatically removed
 - Promote/participate in gleaning program
 - Use town meeting as an opportunity to promote sustainability and long-term planning
 - Sustainable Groton footprint stamps on sidewalks in town
 - Formulate more subcommittees – this was removed because there are specific subcommittees proposed in other initiatives
 - Here are the nine items that were selected by the 8 participants to drive our strategic direction in 2024 along with their vote totals (sometimes, thanks to the ballot-stuffing enabled by multivoting with our colored dots, in excess of 100%)
 - **Climate Action Plan (CAP) -- 13 votes (162.5%)**
 - Continue to visit other stakeholder groups in town and share inventory and next steps – some detailed below
 - Propose clean energy/climate resolution at town meeting
 - Secure funding for CAP or decarbonization plan, develop CAP or decarbonization plan,
 - Propose specialized building stretch code at town meeting
 - Continue to work on Green Communities 1.0 (fall 2024 grant proposal)
 - **Form Grant Subcommittee -- 9 votes (112.5%)**
 - Work with other subcommittees to find grants, write proposals, and administer grants
 - **Continue Education Seminars -- 8 votes (100%)**
 - As planned continuation of seminar series, include two outdoor sessions/year (EVs, forest walks)
 - Take education series in some form into grammar school,
 - **Communications & Social Media Subcommittee -- 8 votes (100%)**
 - **Formalize subcommittee**, develop website and support social media presence, consider using MassEnergize for website, have a presence at Town Meetings

- Pollinator Corridor and Habitat Garden -- 8 votes (100%)
 - **Includes forming Subcommittee**
 - Continue Free Tire Recycling Program -- 7 votes (87.5%)
 - Electrification Advocacy - 7 votes (87.5%)
 - Includes electric golf carts, DPW use of electric-powered equipment and pushing GELD to have more progressive policies
 - Formalize the Sustainable Groton Advocate Program -- 5 votes (62.5%)
 - Formalize expectations of advocates and how to become an advocate and promote program – target 500 advocates by 2024 year end
 - Decarbonize Schools - 5 votes (62.5%)
 - Includes work beyond Green Communities
- Items not selected included:
- Form More Liaisons (attend other meetings including capital planning, Destination Groton 250th celebration, Trails, Community Preservation Committee (2),
 - eBike Rentals at Groton Rail Trail (2),
 - Address Noise Pollution (gas-powered leaf blowers and traffic in Groton Center) (1),
 - Transportation Advocacy (more sidewalks, bikeability, public transport/carpooling advocacy),
 - Carbon Sequestration survey work,
 - Restaurant food recycling/composting program
 - Host Annual "Lights Out Groton" Night,
 - Host "Sustainable Groton Night" at Gibbet Hill
 - Create a Clearinghouse and Document Available Funding Programs

Open meeting session adjourned at – 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 7:00pm, at the Groton Center

Respectfully submitted,

- *Charlotte Weigel*

Approved by Groton Sustainability Commission, November 28, 2023.