



# Sustainability Commission

## Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023  
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Groton Center

Attendees: Phil Francisco, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Pat Parker-Roach, Charlotte Weigel, Jim Allen, Ginger Vollmar, Andrew Scott (arrived 8:00pm)  
Absent: David Southwick, Jim Simko, Bruce Easom  
Guests: Ken Horton, Linda Loren, Sue Fitterman

### Minutes:

Called to Order– 7:00 pm

#### 1) Update on GHG Emissions and Upcoming “Next Steps” Meetings with Select Board & GELD (12/4) – Charlotte & Phil

Charlotte presented her GHG Emissions Inventory to the Planning Board and to GELD. She will be presenting a modified version that includes some “next steps” at the Select Board meeting on 12/4/23 at 6:15pm. GELD will be at this meeting too. Charlotte also invited the School Committee and administration to attend. Charlotte and Phil ran through the presentation and a few updates were suggested.

#### 2) Update on Preliminary CPC Grant Request and Required Next Steps – Phil & Alison

Phil presented our CPC request at the CPC Meeting on 11/13/23. There were questions raised. Town Counsel said CPC money for a pollinator corridor was an acceptable request as long as the project is on public land but that the carbon sequestration project does not fit into CPC guidelines. Alison stated that she spoke with the Invasive Species Committee and the Trails Committee about the project and asked for letters of support. Alison is going to write up a more detailed description of this first phase of the project and she and Phil will have to work on the details for the full CPC form due in January.

#### 3) Update on Next Education Seminar – “Reducing Our Waste Stream” (12/6) and plan for February 7th Seminar – Phil

Phil discussed the plans for the next seminar on 12/6/23, “Managing and Reducing Our Waste Stream”. There are 4 speakers lined up and all the normal advertising will be done for the seminar. The following seminar (#9) will be on 2/7/24 and will be a presentation of our GHG inventory. The Education Sub-committee will try to line up some other speakers (perhaps someone for the Select Board).

#### 4) Update on the most recent Free Tire Recycling event (11/18) – Bruce

Bruce was not present to report. Phil gave a report, stating that 78 tires were collected.

#### 5) Discussion with Prospective New Commission Members – ALL

We spent some time hearing from our guest attendees as to their interest in being on our commission.

- Linda Loren
  - Lots of garden ideas as she has been a gardener for years and is a member of the Garden Club. She doesn't like that the town uses toxic fertilizers on plants at the various commons. She is against irrigation systems being used when the town has a watering ban and for street tree protection.
- Ken Horton
  - Moved to town 18 months ago from PA and put solar on his house. He is not happy with GELD's policies around solar. He is tired of seeing all the gas-powered equipment being used around town and would like to see changes in that area.
- Sue Fitterman (prospective Pollinator Corridor Subcommittee/Workgroup member)
  - Sue is a gardener and wants to work on the Pollinator Corridor Subcommittee.
- Pete Jeffrey / Was not in attendance.

A motion was made by Pat (seconded by Andrew) to recommend to the Select Board that Linda Loren and Ken Horton be appointed to our commission. A motion was made by Ginger and seconded by Jim Allen to add Sue Fitterman as an alternate member of our commission. Both passed unanimously.

#### 6) Establishing & Authorize New Subcommittees or/and Workgroups Based on CY 2024 Strategic Initiatives – ALL (likely Chair is bolded in list below)

- Climate Action Plan and NetZero 2050
  - **Charlotte**, Phil, Andrew, Ken
- Education Seminar Series
  - **Phil**, Charlotte, Andrew, Linda Loren
- Grant & Fiscal Development
  - David, Jim A., Charlotte, Phil
  - Chair, **Phil** (temporary)
- Pollinator Corridor & Habitat
  - **Alison**, Sue Fitterman, Jim A., Andrew, Linda Loren
- Communications & Social Media
  - **Pat**, Ginger, David
- Tire Recycling
  - **Bruce**, Phil, Pat

- Electrification Advocacy/Energy Coaching
  - **Charlotte**, Andrew, Ken, maybe Pat
- Sustainable Groton Advocate Program
  - **David**, Phil, Ken
- Other Prospective “Walk-ons”
  - **Ginger**, Ken, Bruce
  - Possible tasks: in town restaurant composting, leaf blower ban, alcohol nips ban

**7) Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from 10/17 (Pat) and 10/30 (Charlotte) — ALL**

We reviewed the minutes for the 10/17/23 meeting. Jim Allen made a motion to approve them, and Charlotte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. We then reviewed the minutes for the 10/30/23 meeting. Andrew made a motion to approve them, and Pat seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8) New Business**

None

**9) Adjourn** Motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm

**Next Meeting: TBD (late December / early January)**

**Next Meeting: Forgot to schedule**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginger Vollmar

Minutes Approved at the 1/4/2024 Sustainability Meeting