



# Sustainability Commission

## Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, February 5, 2024  
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM  
Meeting Location: Groton Center

Attendees: Alison Dolbear Peterson, Pat Parker-Roach, Bruce Easom, Ken Horton, Charlotte Weigel, Jim Allen, Ginger Vollmar, Phil Francisco, Andrew Scott, Jim Simko, Susan Fitterman (Alternate)

### Minutes:

Called to Order– 7:00 pm

- **Discuss plans for Spring GrotonFest and tie-in with “EV Petting Zoo” event**
  - Phil described the idea of having the EV Petting Zoo event in coordination with Spring GrotonFest on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He has confirmed with GrotonFest organizers that we can have 2-3 tent spaces behind Prescott at GrotonFest. He set up a partnership with Groton Inn/Forge and Vine owner and manager to host 10-12 cars on stabilized grass area next to Forge and Vine
  - The group agreed that 2 tents behind Prescott with one car will be sufficient
  - Bruce moved to authorize payment of \$150 to GrotonFest organizers for 2 tent spaces behind Prescott at SpringFest. Pat seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.
  - Phil requested help for designing graphics to advertise the event. Pat and Andrew both volunteered to help
  - We have a few owners/vehicles lined up for the event, including the town Nissan Leaf, but **ACTION ITEM** all Commissioners need to go ahead and reach out to people they think might be interested in participating and pass off their contact info to Phil or Charlotte so we can start planning with them.
  
- **Finalize Calendar Year 2024 Strategic FY2024 adjusted spending plans and FY2025 funding request**
  - In the interest of reducing FY2025 spending, Phil reviewed a draft plan for spending and suggested two approaches to reduce spending
    - Move some expenses from FY2025 over to FY2024 (Sustainable Groton stickers, flags and poles, and certificates)
    - Reduce some proposed expenses for FY2025
  - Phil reviewed an updated FY2024 expense sheet which includes Tire Recycling Program, Pollinator Garden, Digital Media and Communications, Seminar Series, GHG Inventory and Marketing. Total FY2024 spending will be \$14,711. We will return \$289 to the town.
  - Abandon the idea of getting a sign over Main St. because the estimated cost is \$1000-\$1200.
  - Phil reviewed an updated FY2025 budget. Discussions yielded the following reductions:
    - Decreased cost of advertising Sustainable Groton seminars in the Groton Herald through submitting Letters to the Editor
    - Fall outdoor educational event to be held during a Friday Farmers’ Market at Williams Barn, eliminating the expense of hosting this event as a fall social event.
    - The number of tire recycling events was reduced from four to two.

- Reduced advertising for Climate Action Plan Community outreach
  - Reduced spending on Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 GrotonFest booth activities
  - Many in the group agreed that spending on Youth Outreach should be prioritized, and remained at \$1250. How that outreach will occur is to be determined.
  - Final FY2025 budget reduced from \$15,000 to \$9,600.
  - Bruce moved to approve the updated FY2025 budget for \$9,600. Jim Allen seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.
- **Upcoming Sustainability Education seminar – Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup>**
    - Phil reviewed plans for upcoming February, March and April seminars.
  - **Review/approve Minutes from the 16<sup>th</sup> of January Commission meeting**
    - Commission reviewed minutes with edits
    - Bruce moved to approve minutes as amended. Ginger seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the motion. Jim Simko did not vote due to technical difficulty.
  - **New Business**
    - Pat presented an invoice for \$3000 for MassEnergize to develop a Sustainable Groton website. This expense was included in the FY2024 budget reviewed above. Pat moved to approve the invoice for \$3000 for MassEnergize. Ken seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Open meeting session adjourned at – 8:57 pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2023, 7:00pm, at the Groton Center**

Respectfully submitted,

- *Charlotte Weigel*

Approved by Groton Sustainability Commission, February 20, 2024.