



## **Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: The Groton Center

Attendees: Phil Francisco, Linda Loren, Ken Horton, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Pat Parker-Roach, Charlotte Weigel, Bruce Easom, Sue Fitterman, Jim Simko

Absent: Jim Allen, David Southwick, Ginger Vollmar

### **Minutes:**

Called to Order– 7:02 pm

1. Potential reorganization voting (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk): Phil would like Chair and Vice Chair positions to be 2-3 years for continuity. Phil agreed to be Chair and Charlotte agreed to be Vice Chair for another year from July 2024 to June 2025. Sue Fitterman volunteered to be Clerk for 6 months. Sue was voted unanimously to fill this position.
2. Update on resolution for the Select Board regarding the Hanscom Airport private jet expansion: Ginger presented this to the Select Board last week and they passed the resolution unanimously.
3. Upcoming Tire Recycling Day, info and call for volunteers: Coming up the 22nd of June at the Transfer Station. Phil was looking for volunteers.
4. Groton River Festival Update: Very rainy and cold weather resulted in poor attendance at this event and little traffic at the Sustainability Commission booth. Disappointing results.
5. Subcommittee and Work Group Reports:

Education Subcommittee - Staffing and scaling of objectives for the Education Subcommittee: Phil is looking for climate action work group volunteers. Discussion

ensued. Charlotte needs to step back a bit and Pat is willing to step into the Education subcommittee. A slide was presented with a list of possible topics for education seminars for the coming year. Also Phil and Charlotte will present a talk on Groton's Greenhouse Gas Emissions geared toward teens and parents at the Groton Public Library on Thursday June 20 at 7:00 PM. Charlotte shared the slides that will be presented at the talk. Discussion ensued.

Net Zero 2050/Climate Action Group - report on Select Board meeting workgroup and next steps (Ken, Charlotte, Phil): Ken reported on a presentation to Select Board regarding other town's net zero plans. Town needs to hire a person and Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) needs to be on the same page. We need an interim group to work towards the goal of net zero and present something at Town Meeting next year. The working group would be 2 from the Sustainability Commission, 1 from the Select Board and 1 from GELD. Town manager is supportive. Need to nail down GELD's position. Charlotte and Ken volunteered to be on this group. Charlotte talked about town electrifying fleet as vehicles need to be replaced. Stretch code for new buildings to be brought to town vote was explained.

Heat Pump Coaching Workgroup report: Energy Coaching has met with 12 households so far. Charlotte would like to do round table energy coaching.

Communications and Social Media Subcommittee report – where things stand on website development and what to anticipate before GrotonFest in September: Pat explained that the website has turned out to be way more in-depth than he had originally thought.

Sustainable Groton Advocates Subcommittee report: David Southwick was not in attendance. A new flag has been designed. The Commission is getting a lot of traffic on Facebook from folks that are interested in being advocates. Discussion on who gets advocacy flags and what they need to do to earn a flag.

Pollinator Corridor and Habitat Workgroup report: Alison reported that she has spent \$846.13 of this year's fiscal year budget on mulch and plants to finish the Pollinator Garden. Phil is requesting transparency on what members are spending and there was a discussion about Commission members getting approval from the group before making purchases. Approval must come first and this has not happened with the Pollinator Garden. For the new Pollinator Corridor, Bruce will do a survey of the plot to establish its boundaries before a fence is put up.

Grant and Fiscal Development Subcommittee – initial progress and next steps: Moving forward with Bruce joining the group to get a grant writer.

6. Budget Overview: The group reviewed and voted to approve the following expenses for FY2024:

\$300 for Groton Herald ad for 6/22 Tire Recycling

\$91.09 for Staples to print the large Tire Drop-Off/Recycling sign for 6/22 event  
\$220 for new event banner from Wass-Arthur Signs  
\$100 fee to Groton Business Association for Fall GrotonFest 12'x12' booth  
\$500 (not to exceed) for holders for Sustainable Groton flags  
\$300 (not to exceed) for Sustainable Groton flags  
\$846.13 for Pollinator Garden expenses  
\$117.97 for hoses for new Pollinator Corridor

7. Planning for Summer and Fall 2024 Schedule for meetings: Next meeting will be on Tuesday August 20th at 7:00 pm over Zoom. Discussed having some Zoom meetings next year instead of meeting in person to accommodate members that are traveling.
8. Other and New Business: Bruce reported that he and Charlotte will be interviewing Danielle Delaney soon for the student intern position for developing a plan to create additional pollinator gardens in town.
9. Review/approve Minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting: The minutes were approved as amended with one abstention.
10. Review/approve Minutes from the May 21<sup>st</sup> Commission Meeting: The minutes were approved as amended with one abstention.
11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Loren