**Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date:Friday, 9 August 2024

Meeting Time: 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom

Attendees: Allison Dolbear Peterson, Bruce H. Easom, Phil Francisco (Chairman), Sue Fitterman, Linda Loren, David Southwick and Charlotte Weigel

Guest: None

The chairman called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

* **DOER Grant Application**: The purpose of the meeting is to see if the Commission will approve the submission of a Department of Energy Resources grant application to fund technical assistance to Groton residents considering installing heat pumps as a way to reduce their heating and cooling bills and their carbon footprint.  
    
  Charlotte described the application in detail. The funds would be used to pay Abode Energy Management to provide 20 cost and efficiency comparison analyses for Groton residents to compare two or more vendor quotes for installing residential heat pumps. It would also fund 15 hours of Abode’s time to provide technical assistance to residents trying to decide if heat pumps are right for their particular situation.

Some of the funding will be used for public outreach so that Groton residents can be made aware that these services are available to them. Proposed outreach efforts include

Mailings to Groton residents

A banner to be displayed over Main Street

Presentations at the Groton Senior Center

The Commission discussed whether the banner should be included as part of the outreach effort given its estimated cost of about $837 plus a 15% contingency.

Bruce moved that the Main Street banner should be included in the application to the Department of Energy Resources. The motion was seconded by Phil. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Bruce moved that the Commission authorize Charlotte to submit a Department of Energy Resources grant on behalf of the Groton Sustainability Commission. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission discussed the next steps and agreed upon the following.

The design of the Main Street banner should be done in the fall

The design for the mailer should be done in the fall

The expected date of the award announcement is December 2024.

* **Next Meeting:** The Commission agreed that the next meeting should be on 20 August 2024 at 7:00 PM by Zoom.
* **Adjournment:** Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote and the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Bruce H. Easom.

These minutes were approved unanimously by the Sustainability Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on 20 August 2024.