 

**Sustainability Commission**

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Bruce Easom, Sue Fitterman, Ken Horton, Linda Loren, Pat Parker-Roach, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Ginger Vollmar, Charlotte Weigel

Absent: Phil Francisco, David Southwick, Jim Simko

Other Attendees: Charlotte Steeves, Conservation Administrator

**Minutes:**

Called to order at 7:01 pm

1. **Update from Outreach Subcommittee**. Pat added “Climate Action Resolution-Vote” tab on the first page of Sustainability Commission website, along with an “Events and Seminars” tab. He created a form to sign up for a mailing list and added links to all Education Seminar videos.
2. **Update from Pollinator Habitat Subcommittee - includes discussion on collaboration for Wild and Scenic Grant for Carol Wheeler Park restoration (led by Stewardship Committee), and update on intern work.** Charlotte Steeves said the Stewardship Committee is applying for a grant due March 3rd to remove invasive plants and add native pollinator plants at the Carol Wheeler Park in West Groton. She asked if the Sustainability Commission was interested in partnering with them and possibly the Parks Commission and the Invasive Species Committee to work on the grant application. A motion was made and seconded that the Sustainability Commission will participate in the grant application. The motion passed with seven yes votes and one abstention.
3. **Update on Grants, including Municipal Energy Technical Assistance and Municipal Decarbonization Planning Technical Assistance.** The group discussed two grants: one for Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) for $15,000 that provides technical assistance with assessing decarbonization projects in municipal buildings, and one for technical assistance from the state to create a Municipal Decarbonization Plan. A motion was made and seconded to support both grant applications. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Update from Climate Action Planning Subcommittee on climate resolution outreach.** Ken has met with or plans to meet with the following groups to discuss the Climate Action Resolution that will be on the Spring 2025 Town Warrant: Council on Aging (COA), Trails Committee, Destination Groton, Planning Board, Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), Democratic Committee, and Conservation Trust. There will be a public hearing about the warrant article sometime in March. Charlotte will modify the warrant article wording to meet the Climate Leader requirements.
5. **Update from Energy Coaching Working Group.** The group coached two clients so far this year and a few more are in the planning process. The new energy coach Jim Moisson is getting trained. The group will work on outreach to get more clients and may ask the Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) to include an insert with their electric bills in the future. Ginger will draft a Letter to the Editor at the Groton Herald about the free energy coaching offered by the Sustainability Commission.
6. **Water Commission Update.** Ginger attended two Water Commission meetings and reported that they put Level 1 water restrictions in place every year, and they monitor well levels and use information from other towns to decide about drought levels. She asked them about educating Groton residents about water use, and was told they may include information in future newsletters.
7. **Review GDRHS solar PV/battery proposal.** The group discussed the draft proposal prepared by Charlotte Weigel and Fay Raynor for a photovoltaic system with building energy storage system project at the Groton Dunstable High School. The proposal is still in draft form and needs more work. A motion was made and seconded that the Sustainability Commission support the GDRHS Solar PV/Battery Proposal. The motion passed with seven yes votes and one abstention.
8. **Question on FY2026 funding.** Charlotte asked each committee chairperson to think about their budget needs for Fiscal Year 2026 and present their suggestions at the Commission’s March meeting.
9. **New Business.** Sue presented a quote from National Band and Tag Company for $331.86 for 28 plant nametags and stakes for the Pollinator Habitat garden. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of the nametags and stakes. The motion passed unanimously.
10. **Review of January Commission meeting notes (2 sets).** A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 8, 2025 meeting minutes as amended, and the January 29, 2025 meeting minutes as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** The motion toadjourn at 8:46 pm was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Groton Center**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Fitterman