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**Sustainability Commission**

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: The Groton Center

Attendees: Bruce Easom, Sue Fitterman, Ken Horton, Linda Loren, Veronica O’Donnell, Alison Dolbear Peterson, Jim Simko, Ginger Vollmar, Charlotte Weigel

Absent: David Southwick, Pat Parker-Roach

Guests: Teagan Gagne, Danielle Delaney

**Minutes:** Called to order at 7:03 pm

1. **Pollinator Corridor Intern Project**: The two Pollinator Corridor interns from Groton Dunstable Regional High School are Danielle Delaney and Teagan Gagne. They attended the meeting and gave an excellent update on their work to date. They have researched pollinator species in decline in Groton (bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and bats) and identified their necessary habitats and food sources. They showed a video from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) about the work DCR is doing in this area. Teagan and Danielle also talked about native plants that could help pollinators, and identified some of the existing pollinator gardens on Town-owned land in Groton. Their next steps are to identify pollinator gardens on private properties and to develop plans for pollinator corridors.
2. **Town Meeting talk run-through**: The group reviewed and agreed on the narrative for presenting the Climate Resolution warrant article at Town Meeting on April 26th.
3. **Energy Coaching Subcommittee update**: The group has had five clients since the fall and is looking for ideas to improve community outreach and get more clients. Ginger will write a letter to the Groton Herald about the May 22nd heat pump coaching seminar. Charlotte shared a letter from the Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) Board of Commissioners about the proposed legislative initiatives by Massachusetts state agencies.
4. **Grant Subcommittee update**: Charlotte reported that the shared Energy Manager grant from MassSave was awarded to Groton, Ayer, Shirley and Harvard. The grant provides funding for a shared Energy Manager at a salary of $120,000 each year for three years. The next step is to have the Memo of Understanding (MOU) from MassSave reviewed by Groton Town Council and signed by the Groton Town Manager. Once the MOU is signed, Groton can post a job description for the position.
5. **Pollinator Habitat Subcommittee update:** Alison said the six shrubs planted last fall during the drought need to be watered weekly, but the water is not yet turned on at the Council on Aging building. Bruce offered for the next few weeks to fill up two 55-gallon drums with water from his house and bring them to the COA building with a pump so Alison can water the shrubs.
6. **Outreach Subcommittee update**: For Spring GrotonFest on May 18, the Transfer Station staff offered to bring a battery-powered front loader to one of the Commission’s spaces, and Linda and Ken will work on a “mosquito bucket of doom” giveaway. The Commission got 25 new email addresses from attendees at the “Pivoting From Plastics” education seminar. Alison and Ginger and possibly Pat are interested in staffing a booth at RiverFest on June 8th.
7. **Review FY2026 budget again:** Bruce will reach out to Phil Francisco to reconcile expenses vs. budget for FY2025, and he will track expenses for FY2026.
8. **Discuss Prescott biodiversity courses**: Alison attended the first of four sessions called “Sustainability and Biodiversity: Local Responses to Global Crises” given by David Black at the Prescott Community Center, and she encouraged the group to attend upcoming sessions.
9. **Review meeting minutes from March 18th and April 2nd Commission meetings:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from March 18th and April 2nd as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** The motion toadjourn at 8:54 pm was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Groton Center**

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Fitterman