



Sustainability Commission

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Meeting Time: 5:31 PM
Meeting Location: Groton Center

Attendees: Pat Parker-Roach, Alison Peterson, Bruce Easom (left at 6pm), Veronica O'Donnell, Ken Horton, Ginger Vollmar (left at 7:15), Charlotte Weigel

Meeting Called to order at.... 5:31pm

Agenda:

- Approve meeting minutes
 - September 16, 2025 meeting notes
 - Charlotte and Ginger both made suggested changes
 - Pat moved to accept the minutes with Charlotte's and Ginger's edits. Bruce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved
- Budget review: Bruce relayed state of accounts. No discussion.
- Climate Action update
 - Updates/Information on Town Meeting – announcement for November 19th meeting was made at the beginning.
 - November Stretch Energy Code informational zoom meeting scheduled for November
 - Date and time 7pm November 19th, Use Town Zoom meeting.
ACTION: Charlotte will post a Sustainability Commission meeting with Town ASAP for this event. Charlotte will change the event title in MassEnergize to Help Groton be a Climate Leader.
 - **ACTION:** Ken will ask Kelly Brown if she will present info on the specialized energy stretch code
 - **ACTION:** Charlotte will ask Andres if he available to present on his work so far and next priorities
 - **ACTION:** Charlotte will present background information on climate action (survey, resolution, Energy Manager grant, etc)
 - Charlotte sent draft of article for the Groton Herald, Need to get to Russ by 10th to come out on 14th. **ACTION:** Ginger and Veronica

to get suggested edits to Charlotte ASAP so she can finalize and send to Ginger to send to Russ ASAP to see if he is OK with publishing.

- Pat updated group on upcoming improvements to MassEnergize. Will enable connections with social media and content
- **ACTION:** Charlotte to create ppt slide on the event and send to Ginger to post on social media and to Bruce to put on Town website.
- Outreach to targeted groups on the specialized stretch energy code
 - Builders and realtors are not responding. Other ideas. Since local builders are not responding (except for the Brocks) can we find a builder working outside of Groton who is building all-electric homes to talk about why they are building that way?
 - Groton Business Association. Show up at a meeting.
 - Ken presented analysis of the impacts of the specialized stretch energy code. **ACTION:** Ken will find out when next GELD meeting is. Request to present information at that meeting.
 - Housing production plan meeting planned (we think) **ACTION:** Ginger will track down if and when this is occurring and let the group know about it.
 - Planning Board meeting – can we get on agenda immediately? Purpose of meeting with them is to educate on the specialized stretch code and get info on future building plans in Groton. **ACTION:** Charlotte will ask Takashi to get on next meeting agenda.
- Energy Coaching update
 - Following leads as they come! Ginger forwarded someone on Talk about Groton to our email, and they followed up!
- Grants update
 - Green Communities grant application was submitted by Andres on time last week for full \$250K available. \$210K is for LED lights at Stoddart and North buildings of GDRMS. GC estimates will save almost \$50K in electricity and maintenance costs. GDRSD will have to pay \$90K to cover full costs.
 - Andres will start implementing META \$15,000 grant when returns from vacation.

- Charlotte is prodding GDRSD to fill out a statement of interest in a Regional School District grant for fossil fuel equipment replacement. After SOI is submitted, applicants meet with DOER to see if application qualifies. Grant is due in March.
- Pollinator Habitat and Pollinator Path update
 - Alison figured out that one of the hoses was ruptured in the irrigation system, explaining the high water costs last year. She is getting estimate to replace the hose and cover the control box, which she suspects was tampered with. She says she will present estimates to the Commission to get approval before starting work.
 - Alison submitted application to CPC by Oct 15th deadline for \$2200 for irrigation system and the walking path to address safety issue. Charlotte noted that this was done without Commission vote. Alison said the timing did not work out to have a meeting. Veronica moved to retroactively approve the CPC application. Ken seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Outreach/Communication update:
 - Fall Groton Fest - summary of events; successes; changes needed for future Fests
 - MassEnergize revamping platform. Changes coming. Pat is on top of this.
 - Pat moved to apply funding Hubspot (\$260 annual fee due in November) to Mailchimp (\$132 annual fee) Charlotte seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Open Discussion Topics:
 - The group agreed at the last meeting to review the 2025 goals to adjust since the reduction in Commission members. We decided to delay this discussion until the December 2025 meeting to set goals

Meeting dismissed at 7:37.

Respectfully submitted,
 - [Charlotte Weigel](#)

Approved by Groton Sustainability Commission, **November 18thⁿ , 2025.**