

# Groton Sustainability Commission

Meeting Notes: 12/16/2025

**Charlotte called the meeting started at 7:05**

**Attendees:**

- **Charlotte**
- **Alison**
- **Ginger**
- **Bruce**
- **Ken**
- **Veronica**

**Agenda:**

- **Review meeting minutes from any Commission meetings as necessary**
  - Charlotte presented minutes
  - Bruce moved to accept minutes as read
  - Passed unanimously
- **Climate Change update**
  - **Specialized stretch code outreach**

## **Municipal decarbonization roadmap**

Ken and Charlotte updated results of GELD and Select Board meetings they attended.

GELD's board voted 2 to 1 to support Specialized Stretch Codes.

The feeling is that the Select Board is generally positive to the Specialized Stretch Code and hopefully will support it at Town Meeting. They suggest a Public Hearing on the topic beforehand. There is a process to do this. Bruce suggests buying advertising space in the Herald and have Ginger post it on Social Media. Bruce and Veronica will work with Mark H. to understand what the Town actually wants us to do and the timeline to do it. They will report their findings at our next meeting.

The following is the status of outreach to other groups

| <b>Target Audience</b>                  | <b>Person scheduling</b> | <b>Date attending</b> | Notes   |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Bob Garside                             |                          | August, 2025          |   |
| GELD                                    | Ken                      | 12/8/2025             | 2 earlier meetings attended in September and November |
| Select Board                            | Charlotte                | 12/15/2025            |   |
| Select Board (following public hearing) |                          | TBD                   |   |
| Planning Board                          | Charlotte                | 11/13/2025            |   |
| Democratic Town Committee               | Ginger                   | 3/29/26               |   |
| Republican Town Committee               | Charlotte                |                       |   |
| Destination Groton                      | Pat                      |                       |   |
| Trails Committee                        | Ken                      |                       |   |
| Conservation Commission                 | Bruce                    | 1/21/26               |   |
| Groton and Pepperell Rotary Club        |                          |                       |   |
| Groton Conservation Trust               | Ken                      |                       |   |
| Zoning Board of Appeals                 | Veronica                 |                       |   |
| Environmental Club                      | Charlotte                | 12/22/25              |   |
| Teagan and Danielle                     |                          |                       |   |
| Finance Committee                       | Charlotte                |                       |   |
| Groton Business Association             | Pat                      |                       |   |
| Groton Grange                           | Ken                      |                       |   |
| Invasive species Committee              | Charlotte                |                       |   |
| Master Plan Implementation Committee    | Ken                      |                       |   |
| Affordable Housing Trust                | Bruce                    | 2/19/26               |   |
| Council on Aging                        | Charlotte                |                       |   |
| Public hearing                          | Bruce and Veronica       |                       |   |
|   |                          |                       |   |
| Joni helped me with the following       |                          |                       |   |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Groton Public Library                      |  |  |  |
| Groton History Center                      |  |  |  |
| Groton School                              |  |  |  |
| Lawrence Academy                           |  |  |  |
| Prescott Community Center                  |  |  |  |
| The Senior Center                          |  |  |  |
| River Court                                |  |  |  |
| Individual Churches or Council of Churches |  |  |  |
| Hindu Temple                               |  |  |  |

- **Energy Coaching update**

Nothing new

- **Grant update**

No update.

- **Pollinator Habitat and Pollinator Pathway update**

Alison gave an update.

Finished the pathway garden. Signage procurement has been approved by our group and pricing will be presented at our next meeting.

- **Outreach/Communication update**

Hubspot has been moved to MailChimp. MailChimp is currently billing us on a monthly basis but Pat will work with them to get an annual billing for ease of paperwork.

MassEnergize has migrated most of our website to WordPress. Pat will double check that the existing site is properly migrated to the new site prior to having it go live.

Pat hopes to have a January Newsletter and will reach out to commission members at our January Commission meeting for input on the letter.

- **Budget review**

Bruce reported status of budget line items. He will send out the budget spreadsheet

detailing his report to all commission members. The following is a summary of our 5 accounts.

#### Pollinator Garden

| Date     | Reserved | Unreserved | Comment |
|----------|----------|------------|---------|
|          |          |            | FY2026  |
| 1-Jul-25 | \$0.00   | \$500.00   | budget  |

#### Account Balance

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| 19-Aug- |        |          |
| 25      | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |

#### Communications

| Date     | Reserved | Unreserved | Comment |
|----------|----------|------------|---------|
|          |          |            | FY2026  |
| 1-Jul-25 | \$0.00   | \$1,067.00 | budget  |

#### Account Balance

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| 19-Aug- |        |          |
| 25      | \$0.00 | \$867.00 |

#### Education and General

| Date     | Reserved | Unreserved | Comment |
|----------|----------|------------|---------|
|          |          |            | FY2026  |
| 1-Jul-25 | \$0.00   | \$2,100.00 | budget  |

#### Account Balance

|           |          |            |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| 19-Aug-25 | \$350.00 | \$1,000.00 |
|-----------|----------|------------|

#### Unallocated Reserve

| Date     | Reserved | Unreserved | Comment |
|----------|----------|------------|---------|
|          |          |            | FY2026  |
| 1-Jul-25 | \$0.00   | \$3,844.94 | budget  |

#### Account Balance

|         |        |            |
|---------|--------|------------|
| 19-Aug- |        |            |
| 25      | \$0.00 | \$3,728.65 |

- **2026 Planning**

Group discussion on potential work for 2026.

Wishlist – thoughts to think!

Keep working towards Climate Leaders initiative.

Identify more grant opportunities and let the opportunities inform our work for next year.

Find ways to support our new energy manager.

Investigate mechanisms to incentivize the general citizenship to adopt sustainable practices – education, outreach, etc.

Find collaborators such as Prescott Community Center.

This is just a starting point for picking projects for next year.

- **Open Discussion Topics**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm**