

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

Target Audience	Person scheduling	Date attending	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
1-Jul-25	\$0.00	\$500.00	FY2026 budget

Account Balance

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

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

Account Balance

19-Aug-25	\$0.00	\$867.00
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Education and General

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

Account Balance

19-Aug-25	\$350.00	\$1,000.00
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Unallocated Reserve

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

Account Balance

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