



Sustainability Commission

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: Groton Center

Attendees: Pat Parker-Roach, Alison Peterson, Veronica O'Donnell,
Ginger Vollmar, Charlotte Weigel, Ken Horton

Non-Commission member attendees: Andres Correa (arrived 7:10)

Meeting Called to order at.... 7:03pm

Agenda:

- Approve February 17th 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes
 - Pat moved to approve
 - Ken seconded.
 - Unanimously approved
- Approve February 25th 2026 Climate Action Subcommittee meeting minutes
 - Veronica moved to approve
 - Ken seconded.
 - Approved by Veronica, Ken and Charlotte by roll call vote; Pat, Alison and Ginger abstain (did not attend Subcommittee meeting)
- Approve March 12 2026 meeting Sustainability Commission meeting minutes
 - Veronica moved to approve
 - Pat seconded.
 - Unanimously approved.

- Andres gave an update on Green Community award funding LED lighting at the Stoddart and North Buildings at GDRMS, and energy efficiency at Groton Police Station. Total award \$250,000. Andres covered the operational cost savings and greenhouse gas emissions avoided annually with these improvements.
- Andres also discussed the work of the META grant awarded in 2025 to fund retro commissioning study at GDRHS. Work is being set up now, and will be completed before expiration of funding this summer.
- Climate Change update
 - Specialized stretch code outreach:
 - Discuss March 12th public information meeting
 - Suggestion to mention FFF at Town meeting to dispel misinformation circulating that the Specialized Stretch energy code is a fossil fuel ban, because it is NOT a fossil fuel ban.
 - Other issues that were asked about
 - Stoves
 - Solar requirement

- Retrofit wood stove
 - Other recent meetings
 - Grange meeting – mostly supportive – 8-10 people
 - Affordable Housing Trust, supportive
 - Future meetings:
 - Planning Board again on April 2
 - March 29th Democratic Town Committee, at 4.
 - Group decided to go back to Select Board, ask for endorsement, see how goes- **ACTION:** Charlotte will ask Mark for Select Board date.
 - Charlotte still working to set up date to present to Finance Committee
 - What else can we do?
 - Group decided to submit an article in the Groton Herald – Timed to be published in the April 24th edition. Group decided to have interim meeting to review and approve article on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026.
 - What about social media education campaign, weekly updates with digestible information?
 - Publicize March 12th recording
 - Green Communities award, tie to Climate Leaders
 - Facts about the Specialized Stretch energy code, address misinformation
 - FAQs
 - Facts about building trends in the Commonwealth
 - Passive House and MF housing
 - All electric
 - **ACTION:** Charlotte to craft content, work with Pat to get on social media, Ginger will post on local social media sites.
 - Update website with FAQ, put link to video on HOME PAGE – **ACTION:** Charlotte will send FAQ to Pat to put on website.
 - We need a handout for Town Meeting - Group decided to use same handout used on March 12th
 - We need a presentation for Town Meeting – will review on April 14th
 - Municipal decarbonization roadmap update
- Energy Coaching update – no update
- Grant update – update already covered by Andres.
- Pollinator Habitat and Pollinator Pathway update
 - Group signed receipt for garden sign to reimburse Allison for expense - \$273
 - Riverfest – June 14th
 - Alison already responded to Greenway Committee that she will lead participation.
 - Spring Grotonfest
 - Group decided not going to participate this year
- Outreach/Communication update
 - Pat brought expense for \$750 annual membership fee for MassEnergize
 - Charlotte move to approve, Ginger 2nd, unanimous vote in support.
 - authorize Groton to pay monthly MailChimp invoice of 5 X \$17 for mailing list maintenance
 - Charlotte move to approve, Ginger 2nd, unanimous vote in support.
- Update on Groton's Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-year review
 - Veronica attending meetings as rep from Sustainability Commission.
 - Group reviewed spreadsheet of Hazard mitigation priorities

- Still outstanding question of availability of MVP action grants. **ACTION:** Charlotte will connect Veronica to Hillary King at MVP to understand.
- Budget review - skipped
- 2026 Planning (continuation, as needed) - skipped
- Open Discussion Topics –
 - Alison updated the group on the West Groton Dam meeting. Group discussed.

Meeting dismissed at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
- [Charlotte Weigel](#)

Approved by Groton Sustainability Commission, **April 22, 2026**