

## Sustainability Commission Meeting - NOTES

Time: April 22, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting held via Zoom.

Meeting notes in Bold

### Attendees:

- Charlotte Weigel
- Pat Parker-Roach (note taker)
- Bruce Easom
- Alison Peterson
- Ken Horton
- Ginger Vollmar

### Agenda:

#### Meeting called to order by Charlotte at 7:02pm

- Review meeting minutes from any Commission meetings as necessary
  - **Bruce proposed accepting minutes as published by Charlotte – Pat seconded – passed with 5 yes and one abstention**
- Climate Change update
  - Specialized stretch code outreach:  
**26 outreach presentations so far**
    - Update on Groton Herald article
      - **Andres and Charlotte’s articles have been sent to Herald hoping that both would be published, but haven’t heard back yet**
    - slides for Town Meeting
      - **Charlotte presented current slide set soliciting feedback.**
    - HDC meeting presentation
      - **Large audience – Ken and Charlotte presented – good conversation – questions about new building in historic district - HDC doesn’t want to hold back progress but are concerned about solar panels in the district – no vote but**

**fairly positive reception – regarding ranking of conflicting between Specialized Stretch Codes and HDC requirements, the HDC requirements prevail**

- **Charlotte also received confirmation from DOER via email that historic district commission rules would likely preempt a solar PV requirement in a new building within the historic district.**
- **Municipal decarbonization roadmap update**
  - **Ken Reported – data being collected by Colin, – Charlotte recommends Ken has a bi-monthly check in with Colin, Building & Grounds director at GDRSD who is gathering the data**
- **Energy Coaching update**
  - **Ken says that they have recently have had one client and nobody currently in the pipeline**
- **Grant update**
  - **Charlotte has recently seen a court order reversal of cancelled Federal grants. Perhaps there is something we might use, or should be passed on to other Town agencies. This includes a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) & Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Programs | Mass.gov. Massachusetts municipalities and tribes may now apply for BRIC funding. This is a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant funded by FEMA and administered through a partnership with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Required Statements of Interest are due by April 21, 2026. Final applications are due by June 8. Bruce said he would investigate the opportunity for 2027.**
- **Pollinator Habitat and Pollinator Pathway update**
  - **Alison – gave an update on spring work on the Groton Center garden. Bruce proposes that we take a position at Town Meeting regarding repair of the West Groton dam. Seconded Ken seconded it by 4 yes and 2 nos. Bruce moves that the Sustainability Commission not recommend repair of the dam Town Meeting Warrant Article 11. Ken seconded it. 2 Yes – 2 No and 2 Abstain. The motion does not pass.**
- **Outreach/Communication update**

- **Pat update on the status of the web and Facebook rollout.**
- Update on Groton's Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-year review
- Budget review
  - **Bruce has received an invoice regarding Tire Recycling. There is a couple different ways that we can compute our obligation. Bruce recommends we pay the difference between cost and what the Town would normally receive in revenue. In this case, Bruce recommends paying \$500 which he feels is in alignment with our. Ken moves that we pay \$500 to the highway department. Bruce seconded. Bruce recommends that we amend that to \$820 which is in alignment with our original commitments. Ginger seconded. Unanimous vote to amend the motion. The vote for the motion as amended is unanimously passed.**
  - **Bruce displayed the current budget.**
- 2026 Planning (continuation, as needed)
- Open Discussion Topic
- **Charlotte moved to adjourn at 9:08pm. Ken seconded. Passed unanimously**

**Meeting notes approved on May 20, 2026.**