

Sustainability Commission - Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 15, 2022

Meeting Time: 3:00PM at Groton Grange

Attendees: Andrew H. Scott, Jim Simko, Phil Francisco, Charlotte Weigel

- 1: Bob Zogg at NC4 YouTube video about the heat smart alliance
- 2: Contact has been made with David Black at The Groton School
- 3: Charlotte Weigel serves on the invasive species committee here in Groton
- 4: We aim to create a resource for the public that has the ability to change over time.
- 5: Would GELD want to help educate?
- 6: Geld seems to be keeping costs low by using natural gas longer
- 7: Eric Fisher was noted as an ally in the sustainability mission
- 8: Global Context vs. Local Level
- 9: Create a conversation with adults
- 10: What do you know? Heating and cooling, PV, No till gardening, pest control, sustainable gardening, neighborhood crop share
- 11: Climate Change, Most have heard it and we want to offer things that they can do to make a meaningful impact.
- 12: Combination of courses, webinars, and conversations.
- 13: Create a Series of educational sessions that is diverse in presentation.
- 14: Meaningful fix example: Kill your lawn movement, native grasses to conserve water
- 15: GELD is a local issue but connected to a much larger system.
- 16: A class should be presented on Global and international issues
- 17: Include hyper local issues at household level
- 18: Climate change initiatives vs Sustainability initiatives
- 19: To help reduce emissions a suggestion was made to not use gasoline powered lawn tools.
- 20: There is a sense of urgency to this project
- 21: Small issues to large issues in cyclical classes
- 22: We should discuss a list of issues. A starting place is the list of items in the book Drawdown by Paul Hawkin, and add our own list and discuss at next meeting.
- 23: Government issues vs local issues. Time keeps marching forward.
- 24: The Groton grange missions are similar to this Commission
- 25: One on one conversations with educators to get this program in motion
- 26: Prescott class about wildlife in town, PV Presentation.
- 27: The local knitting group at the library was discussed briefly and their connection to world events. Activism in regard to knitting.
- 28: Charlotte Weigel will be presenting a PV Lecture at the Prescott school. Q+A, with a discussion of financial concerns of the project.
- 29: Expecting the audience to have a range of ideas and backgrounds.
- 29a: How to remove panels to repair a roof and who would be responsible for it and costs.
- 30: GELD HQ should have solar on the roof. What is the public image of not having solar?
- 31: Public utilities are fighting renewables. Control of power is difficult with multiple sources.
- 32: The southwest of the united states was referred to as a place with lots of residential solar where the grid is complicated by two way power.
- 33: Energy creation and delivery
- 34: Morocco Solar array, Molten salt battery storage, Delivery to Europe.
- 35: PV on school being built, Florence Roche
- 36: Reduce egregious waste

- 37: Reference: Nine Planetary Boundaries, Limits to growth.
- 38: Pollinator Garden
- 39: What to ask of the select board? How do we guide the town toward Sustainability?
- 40: Groton in context, Ask for a declaration of climate emergency
- 41: Frustration about warnings with no action because emergency has not yet been declared
- 42: Water levels are low and warnings have been issued. Are we going to wait for them to run dry before we take action?
- 43: More pressure needs to be exerted on GELD and the highway department
- 44: Divide this project into "buckets," ex. Water, energy, agriculture..., etc.
- 45: Subcommittees vs. Experts
- 46: Write positions on each topic
- 47: We should avoid being victims of climate change and take action to be out in front of the issues
- 48: Liaisons should be created between groups
- 49: What do we take positions on? We need to be in front of the issues. Create pressure points. Use the guidance of our office.
- 50: Refer to the master plan for the town of Groton
- 51: Mosquito spraying was a non issue this year due to the drought conditions. (Neonicotinoids) which led to Bruce Easom's Tire initiative
- 52: How to present a plan for no spraying?
- 53: Target: Ask for money,
- 54: Affordable housing commission
- 55: Select Board hires outside consultants. Should we hire an outside consultant?
- 56: What are the issues the town deals with?
- 57: Create Liaisons for information
- 58: NC4 is appreciated because members of our commission are sitting among experts
- 59: Would it be worthwhile to create a Sustainability Manager position?
- 60: Petition the governor let a sustainability manager have control over their town.
- 61: What is the power of a Sustainability manager?
- 62: We need to follow the trail that has been created by other towns who have been successful in making advances in sustainability
- 63: In NC4 meeting minutes MOU is final (discussion of miscommunication on this issue)
- 64: What is at risk? Human survival!
- 65: NC4 was created for collaboration and information sharing.
- 66: Would we ask the select board for a paid position for sustainability?
- 67: We need to get our act together
- 68: Public climate emergency declaration starts the status of the positions
- 69: We need to get our message more focused.

Andrew Scott will be hub of information to compile a list of issues to discuss at next meeting.

Meeting Ended at 4:30

Next Meeting October 11 at 3:00PM via Zoom