



Sustainability Commission - Education Subcommittee -

Sustainability Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 10, 2023
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

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

Minutes:

Meeting Started – 12:03 PM

- The meeting centered on reviewing the anticipated flow for Session #2 (“In Home”, May 25th), including the following:
 - Discussion and feedback with Miranda D’Oleo (MCAN), Zoe Eckert (MMWEC) regarding the content, duration and flow for their presentations
 - Maranda D’Oleo (MCAN Buildings Coordinator) will lead the presentation of this session, including steps people can take and where Groton ranks compared to other MLP-based communities, and Zoe of MMWEC will discuss the availability of home energy audits and GELD incentives.
 - Timeline for providing their draft and final PowerPoint materials and personal biography information.
 - Logistics for the evening of 5/25 – doors unlock at approx.. 6pm for setup, 7pm start time (tied to Groton Channel broadcast, if live).
 - Reviewed some first-draft charts for affordable options homeowners could use to make their homes more sustainable by Charlotte. We provided feedback and planned to add her charts to the end of the agenda on the 25th.
 - Charlotte secured a programmable thermostat, courtesy of Moison’s Ace Hardware, as a “raffle” item for promoting the event and will be getting sample LED lights from GELD
 - We reviewed the anticipated publicity for the seminar in the *Groton Herald* (Phil purchased an ad) and social media plans led by Ginger Vollmar.
- Reviewed where we stand regarding Seminar session #3 (“Heating & Cooling”: June 15th) with Bob Zogg (HeatSmart), John Moore (NE Solar Hot Water) and Phil (biomass heating).
 - We have a version of Bob’s talk in another venue (Chelmsford) – he will update it with GELD energy rates and incentives
 - Still waiting on draft presentation from John
 - John will still be remote (via ZOOM) – we need to arrange with Groton Channel the ability to test their coverage and ability to pick-up the video and audio from a ZOOM connection – subcommittee members can test this ourselves with Groton Channel.
 - Charlotte will connect with both Bob and John about draft presentations.
- Rapid review of session #1 (“The Big Picture panel”) on May 4th
 - Panel session and Q&A with attendees went very well, including the handling of the one negative question from the audience (esp. by David Black).
 - Issues: we didn’t do a very good job of asking everyone to sign-in – we need to be much more diligent and firm about that; several of the speakers largely repeated/expanded on their bios during their introductory comments; we need to remind people of the proper use of the microphone – moving it around leads to audio drop-outs on the video feed to the Groton Channel
 - Participants seems truly upbeat about the session – all three teachers indicated that they would like to do other sessions and both high school students did as well.

- Is the idea of Solar Energy on the high school is one that the Commission can help the Enviro Club members and teachers promote further with Town elected officials and GELD?
- Ad-hoc feedback from some audience members was very-very good and certainly everyone stayed through the end of the session.
- Planning for session #4 (“Land Use, Groton Case Study”: June 29th):
 - Carolyn Francisco is lined up now, as is Trevor Smith, landscape architect/designer at Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton.
 - Also have now lined up Tim Brothers (MIT Observatory in Westford) to provide information on negative effects of lighting on pollinators and migratory birds.
 - Working to schedule a review with all of them to get acquainted and to plan the flow and durations of each of their segments of the presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 24th, 2023, 12:00pm, via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

- *Phil Francisco*, Sustainability Commission Vice-Chair

Minutes approved by Sustainability Education Subcommittee, June 21, 2023.