



# Sustainability Commission - Education Subcommittee -

## Sustainability Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM  
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

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

### Minutes:

Meeting Started – 12:05 PM

- This meeting started with planning for the Session #4 (“Land Use Case Study”: June 29<sup>th</sup>) seminar session:
  - Discussion with Carolyn Francisco and Trevor Smith (Weston Nurseries). Tim Brothers was unable to attend.
  - Carolyn reviewed her content and Trevor was better able to understand the scope of what she’ll cover. We jointly decided the best flow would be for Trevor to first provide a more “theoretical” approach to how people might do things like transition more to native plants, regenerative gardening, native grasses/flowers in a “meadow” and rainwater harvesting/rain gardens, including planning. Carolyn will discuss the steps taken at her home, what was learned, what issues there have been/are, and what sort of “whimsies” were discovered along the way. Finally, Tim will review the issue of lighting and how homeowners / business owners could/should address it to benefit pollinators and migratory birds.
  - We reviewed the timeline for providing their draft and final PowerPoint materials and personal biography information.
  - We reviewed the logistics for the evening of 5/25 – doors unlock at approx.. 6pm for setup, 7pm start time (tied to Groton Channel broadcast, if live).
- Final check-in with respect to Seminar session #3 (“Heating & Cooling”: June 15<sup>th</sup>) with Bob Zogg (HeatSmart), Bruce Dike (NE Solar Hot Water) and Phil (biomass heating).
  - Great news that Bruce is confirmed to be coming to the session in person, so no need to worry about connecting ZOOM to Groton Channel
  - Some issues with the commercial and competitive positioning of some of Bruce’s slides in the NE Solar Hot Water deck – Charlotte is on point to try to resolve those.
  - Charlotte has written a Letter to the Editor to be published in the *Groton Herald* on Friday (June 9<sup>th</sup>) and Ginger has it placed in “Groton Happenings” in the paper and will be pushing it through social media channels later this week as well.
  - We are pursuing both the “bring a friend” and “bring a parent” ideas raised by Charlotte – Phil sent email to previous session attendees about “bring a friend” and Charlotte is working with the High School Enviro Club on “bring a parent”.
- Rapid review of session #2 (“In Home”) on May 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Very good session with Miranda, Zoe and Charlotte – presentations and Q&A went very well.
  - We were much better about people signing in this time and the online sign-up for home energy audits was moderately successful – could be better.
  - Consistent microphone use remains a problem; we’re going to need to continually coach speakers and monitor questions from the audience to ensure Groton Channel is picking everything up.
  - Generated some interest from Lee Davy in presenting at one of our seminars.

- Planning for post-Labor Day seminars:
  - For the home solar energy session, David Southwick has two consultant acquaintances that could provide expert views without promoting any one company. Plus we should draw on the experience and expertise of members of the Commission who have deployed home solar – Andrew, Bruce, Charlotte & Phil – to provide “real use case” information.
  - We should be aligning a date/time with GELD for their session on electric utilities in Groton and the sources (green and otherwise) or our electrical energy in Town.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 7:00pm, via ZOOM**

Respectfully submitted,

- *Phil Francisco*, Sustainability Commission Vice-Chair

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