

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Ellen Bordman, Stuart Brown, Megan Burnett, Artie Crocker, Jessica Daniel, Molli Denrich, Danielle Dupre, Kathy Farrell, Nancy Hall, Ralph Halpern, Tim Humphreys, Zobia Imam, Judy Karlin, Paul Lauenstein, Beth McGregor, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Ted Philips, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, Laura Henze Russell, Cheryl Schnitzer, Dave Slater, Rosemary Tambouret, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Emily Whitney, Sandra Widland, Alice Zaniewski

1. Welcome: Cheryl led in reading the Vision Statement: *we inspire, educate, connect, and catalyze our community to protect the planet.* Happy and healthy New Year to all!
2. Secretary's Report: December minutes postponed
3. SSC speaker: State Representative Ted Philips gave an update on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill H878 currently being considered on Beacon Hill: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H878>. It will shift the cost of packaging from the consumer to the producers that sell them, thereby incentivizing the use of less wasteful packaging and improving the efficiency of our recycling systems. China is no longer accepting recycled materials from the US. H878 goes after big producers of waste packaging. It will set up a Producer Responsibility Organization, made up of the producers themselves, which will determine what the producers will have to pay. Money generated will go toward education and recycling programs. There is also a bill out for recycling of mattresses. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H988>

From the Q&A - A statement from SSC supporting the bill would be helpful; Eversource pipeline project is on Rep Philips's radar; Rep Philips is sponsoring new bottle bill that will include "nips"; there is a similar bill being proposed for recycling electronics.

4. Cheryl asked for everyone to review the end of year report: <https://sustainablesharon.org/2022/01/09/ssc-year-in-review-highlights-of-2021/>
5. New SSC 10th Anniversary logo was revealed.
6. SSC Interest Group reports: Cheryl encouraged all attendees to join an interest group and help out with the upcoming Green Day.

- a. Energy (Ralph): Keeping an eye on the plans for proposed pipeline from Brockton to Sharon. There is a push to get Mass Save to step up a little bit from their current model. This is included in the latest newsletter.
- b. Zero Waste (Debbie): Working with Youth group on Skip the Stuff.
- c. Youth (Charlotte): Working with restaurants in Sharon to promote “Skip the Stuff”, encouraging restaurants to ask patrons if they want “the extras” with their take out, and not use styrofoam containers.
<https://recyclesmartma.org/2020/10/lets-talk-about-plastic-are-my-take-out-containers-all-trash-newsletter/> <https://upstreamsolutions.org/skip-the-stuff>
- d. Water (Laura): Debbie Tatro is now on the lake committee. Looking into what lawn companies are doing with pesticides and lawn care. Looking at other important measures of water quality and the lake.
- e. Communications/10th year anniversary (Ellen): If anyone is interested in helping plan Green Day events, reach out to Ellen & Cheryl. New website coming out to help launch Green day.
- f. Trees and Plants (Rosemary): Looking for volunteers to help with invasives in Sharon. Will reach out to Sharon Garden Club and Sharon Friends of Conservation.
- g. Food (Alice): Creating a collaborative cookbook. Easy to add recipes to it:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RYQBJza0ex8pxiDJjMVivGWuRxHIj9Wgg0fN0R7EXJs/edit?usp=sharing> Would love to get local restaurants involved. Might be a good fundraising opportunity.
- h. Invest for the Planet (Paul): SSC is joining 6 other groups signing a letter that connects global warming to the lack of campaign finance reform.

7. Other business

- a. High School Senior Sustainability Award: Sandra will touch base with Nivedi about this
- b. Speaker ideas? Sustainable alternatives for burying: <https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/>

8. Next Meetings

- SSC Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 26th, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- SSC General Meeting: Wednesday February 2, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Sandra Widland and Marlene Arnold