

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition General meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 7:00 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In Attendance: Asma Abdullah, Marlene Arnold, Stuart Brown, Artie Crocker, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Silas Fyler, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Charlotte Pototsky, Helen Poynton, David Ruggiero, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Debbie Tatro, Melissa Tian, Sandra Widland

1. Welcome (Cheryl Schnitzer)
 - Recited Vision Statement together and reviewed meeting logistics.
2. Report from SSC Communities, Interfaith, and Multicultural Committee (Asma Abdullah)

SSC is joining Temple Sinai and Sharon Racial Equity Alliance (SREA) to host a webinar on Environmental Justice. It is scheduled for October 15 at 7:30pm (information on our website/facebook page). There will be coverage by Sharon Community TV, NBC 10 Boston's Meteorologist and Climate Change Specialist, Chris Gloninger, and Sharon Patch. It will be streamed on our Facebook page. Register if you haven't already.

 - Would be great if we could promote through schools and other places (haven't heard about it from schools or Temple Israel).
 - Follow-up needed to quickly reach out to other groups, but can also be promoted to watch after the fact since it will be recorded.
3. Report from SSC Zero Waste Committee
 - a. Artificial Turf Update (Debbie Tatro): Need everyone to attend Town Meeting on October 12, 1 pm at the SHS football field and vote YES on Article 18. This article calls for a 3 year moratorium on the installation of artificial turf in the Town of Sharon, allowing time to study the environmental and financial implications of artificial turf, either of which would be substantial.
 - b. Reusable Bag Update: Cheryl reported that Ricki is trying to work with Sharon Market, Shaws, and Wards Berry Farm to give out SSC bags, with a donation suggestion.
4. Report from SSC Energy and Climate Committee (Artie Crocker)
 - a. A lot of new information has been uploaded to the website. Eversource is promoting a utility financial assistance program that we can promote on SSC site as well.
 - b. Silas reported that East Elementary solar canopy might be done by end of month.
5. New business
 - a. Silas - Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition is sponsoring a series of lectures through January (Sunrise movement, intersection of Covid/Climate Change, Plant populations). Nancy can forward it or post it on our FB page to share.

- b. Melissa - HS Senior and member of Sunrise Group, talked about giving a lecture at our upcoming Nov SSC meeting.
- c. Charlotte - Last Roving Reporter article was about solar and next planned is contacting Wards Berry Farm and asking about their sustainability practices.
- d. Cheryl - Outside meetings and projects inspire us, and brings others out to help. So think about what projects we can get behind. Litter cleanup, solar energy, cooking, etc. re-Think our projects and “Green Day.”

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS:

Molli - Remind people they can use re-usable shopping bags at stores. And would love to use those mesh bags. Maybe Shaws can sell?

- Marlene and Molli will help with promoting Mesh Bags

Rory - Neponset River Watershed Association (NEPRWA) had a huge cleanup. SSC/NEPWA had a good turnout at Beaver Brook cleanup. Would like to make a big event for multiple cleanups in Sharon. Town needs help with cleanup after storms of storm drains.

- Molli will help
- Can connect this with Sponsor-a-street initiative

Stuart - New England wildflower society website shows how people can use their yards for sustainability.

- Maybe Sharon Garden Club can get involved
- Helen - interested in garden biodiversity and reducing household pesticide use

Asma - tons of waste of PPE due to COVID.

- Not sure what can be done but maybe can brainstorm

Paul - Ask Beth Rodio about Induction Cooking which uses a lot less energy.

- Artie will reach out to her

Helen - Class studied microplastics in Lake Massapoag and found we have only 1.5 microplastics/liter (compared to Charles River which has 300 particles/liter)

- 6. September minutes were approved by electronic vote. (New procedure - the minutes will be circulated to board members to approve before posting on website.)

Next SSC monthly meeting: Wed. Nov. 4th, 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold