

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition Board Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7 PM
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Debbie Choudhury, Molli Denrich, Paul Lauenstein, Colleen Mirabello, Kathi Mirza, CP Potosky, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Debbie Tatro

1. Cheryl welcomed everyone. She commented that she's glad we chose to meet at least 4 times a year since we no longer have monthly member meetings.
2. Minutes from the December 2023 board meeting will be accepted unless any changes are brought up in the next week.
3. Prior electronic votes: In December, the board voted via email to sign onto an Oceana letter asking the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to minimize single-use plastic in the federal government(11 yes)
4. Marlene shared Gretchen Carey's letter to SSC.
5. Treasurers Report: Dave reported that we are in good financial shape (see report). We can probably save money by switching to an annual subscription with Mailchimp. Reported expenses don't include Squarespace. Membership donations are down. We should discuss at future meeting how to get more membership donations now that we don't meet monthly. We have \$1380 in a tree-specified fund and \$69 left from SSC Kids pollinator garden. We have over \$13,500 overall. Shared ideas of donating to tree-related organizations, planting at HS, a rain garden or plantings to prevent lake runoff.
6. HS Award: Ellen reported that we allocated \$600 last year to the High School award. Small individual awards (\$100-150) awards are not meaningful, and we don't want to be limited with how many to give out. Discussed ideas on how much to give this year.. Motion: SSC to give out merit based HS awards totaling up to \$1,000, not to exceed \$500 for any one award. Vote passed unanimously.
7. Lynn Wolbarst Award: Board voted unanimously to award it to Nancy Fyler (SSC founding member) after members shared all the things Nancy has done especially regarding water conservation. We will need to schedule a suitable date to present it, most likely as part of the "Love the Lake" event or SSC Youth Tree Planting ceremony.

8. Sharon Garden Club is holding an educational forum on April 7th and Marie Martin asked SSC to participate. Debbie and Laura will speak on Lake Health, and Kathy may speak on recycling. Marlene will follow-up with Marie to reserve a table (to be located next to Reuzzi.)
9. Activity ideas for rest of year (April is Earth Month):
 - a. Trip to Avon recycling facility in May - Kathi offered to organize with assistance from Ellen and Marlene
 - b. Collaboration with One Book One Town on reading/events around “The Music of Bees” - Molli will promote in the newsletter and Facebook
 - c. Collaboration with SREA/Moose Hill for “The Ants and the Grasshopper” movie night - Colleen will look into by contacting Sean Moriarty
 - d. Fun Run - CP will ask Alicia Wu about her plans for it
 - e. Forum for Select Board and School Committee candidates (election is beginning of May).
 - f. Tree planting - CP will look to schedule probably first week of May

In addition, thought of having a master calendar to show all the activities would be helpful. CP had done one for SSC Youth and can see about combining for SSC’s use.

10. Debbie Tatro updated the group on the Turf Moratorium which ends at the end of March. She has submitted a warrant article to renew it for 5 more years.
11. We need to create a nominating committee to plan for new officers/board members. Marlene Paul and CP will look into what’s involved in forming nominating committee, and we will recruit interested parties in the next newsletter to reach out if interested in joining the board (need to include credentials)
12. Our next board meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024. If needed we may meet before then to assist with April activities.
13. Adjourn at 8:45pm.