

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition BOARD meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Stuart Brown, Artie Crocker (SSC Energy Committee Chair, NEC Solar), Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Kathi Mirza, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Liz Thomson (NEC Solar), Sandra Widland

1. Recited Vision statement together

2. Welcome to 2020-21 - Discussion on how we want to communicate

- Do we want board meeting agendas and minutes on the website?
 - May want it to be private for conversation, but also value transparency
 - Agreed to post them after reviewed and approved by board via meeting or email
- Request not to use chat feature during zoom meetings, since difficult to record in minutes
- Regarding emails, do you prefer “reply all” with long threads, BCC or Google doc responses? Votes by email OK?
 - BCCs Ok although they lose the thread and don’t know who was copied on the email. Someone will then need to summarize what was discussed and agreed to.
 - Better to use Reply All, but keep long threads to a minimum. If thread gets confusing, can create Google doc.
 - Votes by email are fine, but need to keep track of them. Marlene will keep track of any votes by email so we have them all recorded and can incorporate into minutes.
 - Need to share email addresses - Cheryl will send to all and request to add to MNG
- Signing other organization petitions/letters: As long as the SSC committee agrees, they may sign them on SSC’s behalf by following this procedure:
 - At least 2 members agree to sign, report to Board via email, and the action is then recorded by including in next minutes. Voted and approved. (8 hands raised)
 - Best practice to email prior to signing - “unless I hear otherwise within 24 hours, I plan to sign the following...”
- Everyone tried out the new “MNG” button to test how to submit changes to website. Request to use it to submit bios <https://sustainablesharon.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>.
- Sandra Wildland, Head of SSC strategic planning
 - Shared [2019-20 strategic planning document](#) with updated outcomes. Most committees completed, some weren’t able to.
 - Cheryl also shared yearly calendar of SSC happenings, which she tracks each year
 - Ricky, Marlene and Sandra volunteered to help compile the 2019-20 Annual Report.
 - [Current fiscal year strategic plan](#) is due by September 15th. Will look into posting on MNG section, adding names of chairperson, and matching ‘elevator line’ to updated vision statement.

3. Environmental justice

- Aimee Gindin, Chair of the Temple Sinai Social Justice Committee, asked if SSC would want to co-sponsor a webinar about climate change, public health, and racism.
 - Discussion: It would be in the fall. What does co-sponsor mean? Who are the speakers? Where are they in the process? Do they want help organizing or just getting word out?
 - Helen and Sandra will join Asma on SSC Communities, Interfaith and Multicultural Committee to help with this. Marlene and Paul also volunteered to help with the project.

4. Using SSC to make things happen- Cheryl reminded everyone of our co-branding relationships

- Black Earth Compost: We promoted sign-ups through our website and FB group, <https://sustainablesharon.org/composting/>
- Homeworks Energy, <https://sustainablesharon.org/home-energy-assessments/>. Abby Kessler asked if Sustainable Sharon might be interested in doing a co-branded direct mail piece or postcard that'd be sent out to residents.
 - Request that it's printed on post consumer recycled content, soy based ink
 - Voted to approve (10 hands) to go ahead with postcard; Cheryl and Artie authorized to approve proof
- Relay Power, <https://sustainablesharon.org/community-solar/>
- Solar companies, <https://sustainablesharon.org/solar/>

5. Activism/legislative work - session ends July 31 but may be extended through September

- Share items by submitting to MNG for website (so members can take action)
 - Get OK from a relevant committee member, then submit to MNG
 - Need to provide a script and links on how to find legislators
 - Ongoing list should be front and center on website and then linked (copied) to FB group and the e-newsletter.

6. Update SSC Bylaws (Cheryl Schnitzer)

- **Article 2 Purpose**

Sustainable Sharon Coalition, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation which is operated in accordance with the meaning and provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations issued thereunder.

Sustainable Sharon Coalition, Inc. is organized to promote sound use of natural and man-made resources among the citizens of Sharon, Massachusetts. The purposes of Sustainable Sharon Coalition have been set forth in its Articles of Incorporation which are filed with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- Motion to change second sentence to read as follows:

*Sustainable Sharon Coalition, Inc. is organized to promote **responsible** use of natural and **human-made** resources among the **residents** of Sharon, Massachusetts.*
- Voted and passed (10 hands)

- **Article 3 Membership** - Cheryl requested small group look into this section on Membership Requirements and Dues and report recommendations back to Board.
 - Dave and Ricky volunteered to do so.

7. High School Student Summer Interns Pilot Program (Artie Crocker/Liz Thomson/Simone Tamkin)

- Artie and Liz presented some background and their vision for the program
 - Not unusual for nonprofits to work with companies for collaborative community push
 - Able to offer solar at low price to residents by partnering with nonprofit to get the word out to the community
 - Similar initiatives are being done in several towns in Massachusetts, but adding an internship component will be new
 - Solar campaign is usually 4-6 months, so need to move quickly
 - Has to be a collaborative/partnership between SSC and NEC Solar for it to work
- Comments/concerns during discussions
 - Would like to see more detail
 - Mentors are lined up and waiting to start - all intern spots are full
 - Would want to see internship de-coupled from company
 - Concern if students are involved in sales/marketing of NEC Solar
 - Can we reach out to other towns to see how this type of collaboration has worked in their communities?
- Request that Artie/Liz develop more detailed curriculum to present to Board for vote. In the meantime, Board will discuss via email.

Next SSC monthly meeting: Wed. August 5th, 7:00 PM. Guest speaker: David Ruggeiro, the new Energy Administrator in town, shared with Norwood

Meeting Adjourned at 9 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold