

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition General Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Megan Burnett, Artie Crocker, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Lauren Goloboy, William Goloboy, Ralph Halpern, Tim Humphreys, Judy Jacobs, Judy Karlin, Paul Lauenstein, Michael Littman, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Ted Philips, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, Cheryl Schnitzer, Ted Schnitzer, Dave Slater, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Sandra Widland, Alice Zaniewski, Paul Hilton

1. Paul Hilton (guest speaker) recited the Vision Statement for the group.
2. Minutes from the April general meeting were accepted.
3. Treasurer's report: We have a total of \$7,866 and received \$269.90 in tree donations so far.
4. Special Guest Speaker: Paul Hilton, Sharon resident and portfolio manager at Trillium Asset Management spoke of "Investing to Fight Climate Change." (The presentation was recorded.)
 - a. Trillium's investment strategies focus on climate change, healthy living and economic empowerment.
 - b. 4 keys to investing:
 - Does it have differentiated technology?
 - Is it making money (no startups)?
 - Does it have a strong balance sheet (cash / low debt)?
 - Examine the valuations
 - c. To help engage on climate:
 - Buy "green" bonds
 - Divest from fossil fuel
 - Participate in shareholder advocacy - a \$2000 investment in a company gives you a voice to raise a shareholder proposal
 - d. Actions you can take:
 - Talk to your advisor about your goals
 - Invest in a climate fund or ETF
 - Do research; be smart; be a long term investor; look for leaders
5. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Education (Cheryl for Nivedi): We picked our new "Read for the Planet" book - *Braiding Sweetgrass*. The book is relatively long so start reading! Lori Novick-Carson will be leading the group. You need to sign up to participate.

- b. Zero Waste (Debbie): Primary focus is working to reduce Sharon's trash footprint and hopefully reduce the cost to Sharon residents. Nancy Downes of Oceana has reached out to see if they can help us create a single use bylaw for the Town of Sharon. Talking to other communities on artificial turf.
 - Cheryl - there's a great recycle resource at <https://recyclesmartma.org>
 - Ted Philips - The Massachusetts House is setting up a special commission on PFAS and the issue surrounding it to be led by Speaker Pro Tempore, Kate Hogan.
- c. SSC Kids (Cheryl): A new SSC group for elementary school aged kids. Patrice will be leading via outdoor meetings. Contact patricestering@gmail.com to get involved.
- d. Youth (Aneeza): The Tree Planting is confirmed for Sat May 22nd at 9 am at Deborah Sampson Park. We will be planting 5 sugar maple trees. The cost is \$250 for each tree and we are doing fundraising on facebook. So far we have \$570 towards it. DPW is willing to cover the balance, and SSC also mentioned helping to cover the cost.
- e. Transportation (Mike): Trying to motivate/engage people to get interested and work with the town. May is bike month, so perhaps we can do a community ride. I'm a transportation engineer and work for a consulting firm in Boston. I like to think of myself as a "plan-gineer" and I'm very politically and community driven. I'd like to work on increasing bike paths, improving pedestrian walkways and safety. We have a town-wide master plan and I would like to help implement some of those ideas as a liaison to SSC. Contact: littman.ml@gmail.com.

6. Project Updates

- a. Summer Investment Club: The following members expressed interest in joining a beginners investment club: Aneeza, Aaron, Cheryl, Megan, Bri, Simone, Paul, Kathy F., Ricky.
- b. Awards: High School Student Sustainability Award: Deadline coming up
- c. Sponsor-a-Street (William): This year's clean-up went very well overall.
 - Lauren - People were eager to help. One of the things we noticed was there was more trash this year than last year. Unintentional trash - a lot of household waste, plastics. And intentional trash - drinking bottles from teens, gardener waste such as fertilizer bags. Any ideas on how to change behavior?
 1. Rory - Probably worse from pandemic. Need education - go after the youth to teach and tell their families to get them moving in the right direction.
 2. Take pictures and put on social media to spread awareness.

3. Bri - Put PSAs on LED signs for littering and no idling and also put on Sharon Community TV.
4. Judy Jacobs - use the science of behavioral change. Show people doing the behavior that you want - use social queues to influence behavior. Be sure to think through before going forward with PSAs.
<https://rare.org/program/center-for-behavior-the-environment/>
- d. Lake Massapoag Clean-up (Rory): Reminder to sign-up to volunteer on Saturday June 12th between 8:30-11:30 AM to remove litter/debris/recyclables from beaches/paths/roads. <https://www.neponset.org/sharon-lake-cleanup/> Only 5 weeks away and only 4 SSC members have signed up. We had 425 volunteers for Neponset River Watershed Association so hopefully should be able to get 100.
 - Could be a great opportunity at an in-person event to get new people involved with SSC projects, e.g. composting.
- e. Candidates for School Committee and Select Board (Bri and Cheryl): Be sure to see the website for the prompt and candidate responses before voting on May 18th.
- f. SSC Welcomes You to Sharon! (Kathy Farrell): Want to help people learn about resources for recycling, “Share Sharon” website, community garden, etc. Need to investigate how we find out about new Sharon residents. Ricky volunteered to assist.
7. Liaison/other reports: (Ted Philips) 100% Renewable Energy bill - goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2035, and 100% renewable energy economy-wide (including heating and transportation) by 2045. www.Environmentmassachusetts.org
8. Announcements / Upcoming Events: Sharon Community Speak-Out, Sharon Pluralism Network’s event Sunday, May 23rd from 3-6 PM. (Bri) - Fliers are circulating and information is in our eNewsletter.
9. Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Next Board meeting - **Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:00- 8:00 PM**
 - b. Read for the Planet, *Braiding Sweetgrass* - **Wednesday, May 26th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**
 - c. SSC Annual Meeting - **Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (at Lake Massapoag Bandstand, weather permitting)**
10. Adjournment at 8:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold