

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 7:00 PM
Lake Massapoag Bandstand

In attendance: Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Ralph Halpern, Judy Karlin, Michael Littman, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, David Pototsky, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, Dave Slater, Ricky Stern, Rosemary Tambouret, Debbie Tatro, Alice Zaniewski

1. Cheryl recited the Vision Statement for the group and introduced new members.
2. Minutes from the May general meeting were accepted.
3. Treasurer's report: Dave has been working to create new members form, and will be filing taxes in July.
4. Guest Speaker Kevin Weber, Operations and Forestry & Grounds Division Supervisor, spoke about his role and responsibilities at Sharon DPW.

Town has a commemorative tree program, but it isn't well publicized. To plant one, the donor contacts Kevin, and together they would find a suitable location and choose the type of tree. Preference is to plant a shade tree but can still do flower trees at times. The donor funds it and Kevin buys the tree from Silver Nurseries. The list of donor plaques is kept at town hall rather than on the trees themselves. Kevin is also responsible for any calls about trees in the "right of way."

Q&A:

- a. Locusts tree – do we treat them as invasive? No good answer. It's a problem. Knotweed is another invasive plant that's an issue. Can try cutting them. Covering with plastic would only be a temporary fix.
- b. Are any trees cut down, milled into lumber? Rarely and generally only for town's own use. It's a safety issue, but sometimes will cut and stack it for residents. Hard to manage. Unfortunately, a lot of it is wasted.
- c. Is there something SSC can do to assist in keeping invasive trees in check?
 - i. Helping to educate the public, maybe doing something with the schools.
 - ii. Create a Tree Interest Group, and target Earth Day as an educational program for adults (website) and schools.
 - iii. Pick top 5 invasive species to put on website; Explain how to get rid of them and what to replace them with.
- d. Rosemary volunteered to be the point person for the new Tree Interest Group. Ricky to help. Rory has 2 others that might be interested. Great time to talk to people at the in person clean up. (Already have 40 signed up.)

- e. Also residents can purchase grass-seed, compost bins and leaf bins through DPW.
4. Vote on Slate of Officers and Board Members 2021-2022: President: Cheryl Schnitzer; Vice President: Ellen Bordman; Treasurer: David Slater; Secretary/Clerk: Marlene Arnold; Kathy Farrell; Paul Lauenstein; Mike Littman; Bri McAlevey; Kathi Mirza; Helen Poynton; Ricky Stern; Simone Tamkin; Debbie Tatro; Sandra Widland. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Committee/ Interest Group Reports:
- a. Food (Alice): Some ideas are to promote sustainable eating through social media, cooking class, or community gardening.
 - b. Zero Waste (Debbie): Asking for support to write state reps/senators to co-sponsor 3 bills to save recycling costs. Create a polluter paid model that holds producers responsible for DEP reduction and recyclable production – 100% by 2035. Debbie will promote on facebook and website in the next couple of days.
- Our new recycling coordinator, Eve Carey, is eager to meet us. Perhaps invite her to attend a future meeting.
- c. SSC Kids (Patrice): Patrice has had the first meeting with 5-7 year olds. Very cute. Will wait to engage volunteers until the group gets going and sees what's needed.
 - d. Transportation (Mike): Excited to get started and will look to see about advocacy with our state representatives. Would like to engage with Police Chief Brewer about emergency services to support bike paths. Mike is also sitting in on the master plan implementation group meetings.
 - e. Co-sponsor Lake Massapoag Clean-up, Sat. Jun 12, 8:30-11:30 AM (Rory): Seven geographical areas have been identified and will appoint team leaders to each area, disperse and begin. Will make notes about invasive species. Would be great to have an educational table for the kids.
 - f. SSC Investment Group (Cheryl): Karen Shapiro will be joining the group and is offering to lead the group. Will probably hold 4-6 meetings, with first being June 23rd.
 - g. SSC Welcomes you to Sharon! (Kathy): Assessor will send a report to tell us who has bought a house in Sharon in the past year.
7. Liaison reports
- a. 350 Mass greater Franklin node (Ralph) – Can read about main infrastructure bill at thriveagenda.com. Trying to get Jake Auchincloss (Congregation District 4) to support it: Call him at 617-332-3333. The bigger the infrastructure bill the more damage it could do.
8. New Business –

- a. Membership - new idea to have 3 types: member, associate, and donor. If we are worried about “hostile take-over” via minimal donation, can make it a requirement to be a member for 1 year before being able to serve on the board (with the president able to grant exceptions).
 - b. New speakers – Dr. Sally Warner, Brandeis University, for September.
9. Upcoming Meetings:
- a. SSC Investment Group: Tentatively Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 7:00 PM
 - b. Next SSC General Meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (HS sustainability awards, and vote on new word of the year.)
10. Adjournment at 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold