

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sustainable Sharon Coalition Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**  
**Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>**

In attendance: Aneeza Ahmad, Sebastian Armstong, Megan Burnett, Nancy C., Eve Carey, Artie Crocker, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Eric Hooper, Ralph Halpern, Judy Jacobs, Judy Karlin, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Liz Moore, Peter O’Cain, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Melissa Tian, Adam Velthaus, Alice Zaniewski

1. Cheryl recited the Vision Statement for the group and asked new attendees to introduce themselves; *we inspire, educate, connect, and catalyze our community to protect the planet.*
2. Minutes approved previously by board vote via email.
3. Treasurer’s Report was saved for the August meeting.
4. Presented the High School Sustainability Achievement Award 2021 to:
  - Aneeza Ahmad, First Place
  - Melissa Tian, Second Place
  - Julia Earley, Honorable Mention
5. Eve Carey, the new Town/SPS Recycling Coordinator, introduced herself. One of her main initiatives for the schools will be getting composting in the cafeterias and looking into PAYT for the town.
6. Special Guest Speaker: Eric Hooper, Superintendent, DPW - Update on PFAS in Well #4.

Eric began by clarifying some misinformation going around. PFAS are a family or group of man-made chemicals. They are used in industrial non-stick and waterproofing. PFAS are forever chemicals—because the bond between fluorine and carbon is especially strong, they do not break down naturally.

There are 6 that MA regulates: PFO, PFOA, PFHXS, PFNA, PFHPA, and PFDA.

The EPA sent out a health advisory about PFAS of 70ng/L – a health advisory is not regulatory or enforceable. MassDEP’s Max Contamination Level (MCL) is 20ng/L – is enforceable.

Sharon was supposed to and did run tests in 2013. At that time, the state regulations were different so the 2013 tests did not violate regulation. We are now in UCMR5. UCMR

stands for Unregulated Contamination Monitoring Rule and the number refers to the number of intervals we have had. UCMR5 includes PFAS.

Testing showed that there were no ppb (parts per billion) PFAS in the samples, however, lab protocols have since changed and ppt (parts per trillion – 1000ppb) is the new standard. Ppb contamination was not detected, but ppt was. Because testing did not previously look for ppt, we do not know how long the PFAS in that amount have been there. As per MassDEP's requirement, Sharon started testing in April 2021.

Sharon's mitigation efforts:

Well #4 is the largest and supplies 1/2 to 2/3 town capacity. We have put in a resin filter. A resin filter collects long-chain substances such as PFAS relatively easily by attracting the substance to stick to the filter via adsorption. The resin filter is lowering the PFAS contamination to non-detectable levels. None of the wells are currently more than 10 ppt.

Well #4 is back up and running but the resin filter is a temporary solution because it isn't capable of high enough flow rates. There have been reports of brown water because they had to turn on Well #6 to keep up with water demand. Going forward we will install a granular activated carbon filter as a more permanent solution, likely after next summer. Switching to MWRA water is also being considered.

We don't know the source of the PFAs, there is no obvious source. The working theory is contamination from septic systems close to well #4. For now, residents do not have to worry about their drinking water because of the resin filter that has been put in place.

Watersmart is the best way to stay informed:

<https://townofsharon.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome> or <https://www.townofsharon.net/water-division>. There is a tab with lots of info about PFAS on the division site but it gets very technical; for more understandable info, MassDEP has some good resources.

To reach Eric: [ehooper@townofsharon.net](mailto:ehooper@townofsharon.net), (781) 784-1525 ext. 2311.

7. Cheryl shared a link for the new Membership form: <https://sustainablesharon.org/join-us/>. Thanked Marlene Arnold, David Slater, and Megan Burnett for their work on this. If you join, you will get emails with meeting and activity info. If you aren't on the new membership list, you won't get the meeting emails that Cheryl has sent in the past. Sign up for the SSC eNewsletter too.
8. Picking the SSC word of the year. Last year Debbie Tatro won the contest with the word "Rethink." Breakout groups had 5 min to think of words. The 2021-2022 word selected was "Reimagine" – courtesy of Kathi Mirza.
9. SSC Interest Group Reports
  - a. Food (Alice Zaniewski): will put together a group cooking class or collect recipes. If you want to join this group, email [azaniewski22@gmail.com](mailto:azaniewski22@gmail.com).

- b. Zero Waste (Debbie Tatro): still looking for people to write or call Senator Feeny about sponsoring extended producer responsibility bill(s). Finished presentations to town for improving waste programs, specifically reducing waste. Sent Town letter of recommendations and PowerPoint presentation by Aneeza Ahmad. Hoping there will be a public meeting about the recommendations. Main asks – PAYT & promoting food composting.
- c. SSC Kids (Patrice Stering): Cheryl reported that activities are underway, <https://sustainablesharon.org/>.
- d. SSC Invest for the Planet (Karen Shapiro): Cheryl reported that the next meeting is Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 7:00 PM, <https://sustainablesharon.org/>.
- e. SSC Welcomes you to Sharon! (Kathy Farrell and Ricky Stern): Kathy said that she has a list of topics to review with residents.
- f. Trees and Plants (Rosemary Tambouret): The application for this new Interest Group has been approved by the SSC Board.

#### 10. Liaison reports

- 350 Mass greater Franklin node (Ralph Halpern): Lots of bills making their way through committee meetings, remains to be seen what 350 Mass will focus on. Big issue is pipelines.

#### 11. Next Meetings

- General Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, by Zoom.

#### 12. Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eve Carey and Cheryl Schnitzer