

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition General Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance for the SSC meeting: Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Megan Burnett, Nivedi Das, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Silas Fyler, Tim Humphreys, Kevin Izzo, Judy Leher Jacobs, Judith Karlin, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Art Newman, Charlotte Pototsky, Cheryl Schnitzer, Alice Skolnik, David Slater, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Steven Zeitler, Stephanie Prufer

Additional attendance for the Read for the Planet book group: Isabel Lisle, Liz Moore, Mia Joiner-Moore, Shawn Moriarty, Michael Pierce, Vicki Reidelberger, Allison Schnipper, Ted Schnitzer, Alice Skolnik, Cathy Smith, Melissa Tian, Julie Volkman

1. Cheryl recited the Vision Statement for the group and reviewed meeting logistics.
2. Read for the Planet Book Group discussion (Chapters 1-3): Cheryl described how the book discussions will work. She separated the larger group into 5 break-out rooms for easier discussion. Each was asked to use the provided Google doc to choose and record their scribe, timekeeper and spokesperson, and then discuss two questions about the reading. Groups then met back and provided discussion summaries. Discussion ended at 8 pm, with an invitation for those who wanted to remain on the call for the general meeting.
3. Motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Passed with no objections.
4. President's Remarks: Cheryl announced that Megan Burnett has joined the group as our new webmaster. Cheryl thanked Debbie and David for their past efforts in maintaining the website.

Acknowledgement that Paul L. made an online request to the SSC Board yesterday (Jan 5) for SSC to endorse the Mass Power Forward platform and it was not objected to.

5. Treasurer's Report: David reported that we spent \$240 on "Read for the Planet" books and \$54 for monthly Mailchimp expense. We received \$100 from Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund from Paul and soon will be receiving \$42 from Ricki for bag sales/donations. Cheryl thanked Artie and everyone else for donating to offset the book expense.
6. Committee Chair Reports
 - a. Energy & Climate Committee (Paul Lauenstein, Silas Fyler)

- Sharon Power Choice is coming to Sharon in March. We will all be automatically enrolled at standard level. There is no commitment needed so can opt out at any time. Rate is locked in for 34 months.
- 3 ways to save money with solar: Sharon Power Choice, community solar, rooftop solar. Refer to the flier on the website, <https://sustainablesharon.org/energy-and-climate-resources/>.
- Next Thursday is a public information zoom meeting about it all if you would like to attend. Additional forums on 1/19, 1/26, and 2/4.
- Heights solar status: finished all the wiring and the school will be 98% powered by solar roof.
- All the solar installations in town will generate over 1M dollars for town.
- Paul has been working with David Green on a webinar “Zero Carbon, Zero Bills” that will occur on Feb 24th 7-8pm. Sign up with link, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zero-carbon-zero-bills-for-sharon-tickets-135412734133>.

b. Zero Waste Committee: (Debbie Tatro)

- Debbie introduced Stephanie Pruffer of the Center for Biological Diversity, who is rolling out the Presidential Plastics Action Plan. Launched in early December with over 600 organizations endorsing, it contains an 8-point plan that President-elect Biden can take up to curb the use of plastics. All of the points of the plan can be executed without the approval of congress.
- Since the launch there has been a lot of Media coverage, and it is now in the hands of the Biden administration.
- There is now a need to keep pressure on Biden to take those actions. Organizing a push for Biden to take action within his first 100 days, since plastic is an environmental issue. Will be distributing petitions to do so (tinyurl.com/petitionplasticfree), and a State of the movement call is scheduled for Jan 14th, <https://biologicaldiversity-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tduyupjMrGNCS7aCdyy8rxOSBTR0u4RbV>.

7. Old Business

- a. SSC 10th Anniversary Celebration: David and Simone will be working with Cheryl to plan how best to celebrate our upcoming 10th anniversary next year. Hoping to get more members to volunteer.

8. New Business

- a. Tree Planting: Aneesa is leading a tree planting effort once again in Sharon.

- Can maybe make it an SSC fundraiser? Fundraising with Environmental Club, but perhaps can still have SSC involved.
- The town has helped in the past by bringing the “big rigs” out. Aneeza will reach out to Kevin to see if DPW can help again.
- Idea schools can suggest it as a class gift. Cost of a tree is about \$250.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM. A semi-annual Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February (date to be announced).

10. Adjournment at 8:33 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold