

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Tim Humphreys, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Debbie Tatro, Simone Tamkin

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the 7/29/20 board meeting, passed with no objection.
2. President's Remarks: Cheryl expressed how impressed she was with how well everyone filled out their strategic plans. She hopes committee chairs are following them. Do we want to edit our current elevator pitch to bring it more up to date?

Discussion: Maybe change "sustainable planet" to "sustainable future" or "sustainable community?" Depends on your definition of planet; we would want to include diversity of life such as endangered species.

Decided to put it aside for now and revisit at a later date.

3. Treasurer's Report: David reported we currently have \$7,700 in our bank account. He will look into how tree money is allocated and how best to segregate book donations.

Also, Megan is doing great as webmaster. She found a longstanding bug that was causing an issue with the MNG password. She's working on a workaround to fix.

4. Old Business
 - a. We had talked about sponsoring David Green's *SSC Webinar, Wed, Feb 24, 2021, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Zero Carbon, Zero Bills*. It didn't get into the e-newsletter, and we need to get the word out. A few of us have already signed up - a total of 30 people have signed up so far.
 - b. Sharon Power Choice: We need to do more to promote up'ing to the 100% green option. Maybe wait and do a push in the spring after it takes effect? Do more to promote Paul's flier? If we choose to call residents, maybe get SHS students involved.
 - c. Article 3 Membership: Cheryl had requested a small group look into this section on Membership Requirements and Dues and report recommendations back to Board. Dave and Ricky previously met to discuss this.
 - Membership is difficult to keep track of. We want it to be inclusive and not insult any past or current members that can't vote.
 - We want to be sure to prevent a "hostile takeover" scenario.

- Dave and Ricky had determined that membership shouldn't be based on paying dues. Bylaws left whether to charge dues up to the president. Thought best to leave bylaws alone for now.
- Suggestion to make membership dues/requirements separate from bylaws so can more easily change if needed.
- Membership should somehow be related to demonstrated interest.
- Need to determine who gets a vote, and how we choose our leaders. Our group needs to rely on the goodwill of our members. Dues won't necessarily prevent a bunch of bad actors. Everyone should review the bylaws and propose to the board any suggested changes.
- Suggestion to becoming consensus based and requiring a larger majority ($\frac{2}{3}$). But that could prevent a lot of easy votes from being passed, and studies have shown it could lead to a more conservative leaning body.

Dave, Ricky and Marlene volunteered to meet to discuss in more detail and report back to the Board. For now, the Board will approve the minutes by email prior to the next meeting.

5. New Business

- a. Cheryl shared the results of the [board survey](#), divided the group into Zoom break-out rooms, and asked what stood out.
 - i. What is going well: Culture, support, idea for investment group
 - ii. What can be improved: More membership diversity, engage young people, look at what we can do for the town
 - iii. What should be our goals for 10th anniversary: re-visit strategic plan, piggy-back onto other events
- b. Green Day 2022/10th Anniversary Celebration: Cheryl shared a timeline with various tasks that members can sign up for
- c. When we meet again in person, do we want to switch to Moose Hill or stay at the Community Center?

We will stay at the Community Center for now. Perhaps we can balance having some meetings via Zoom and others in person with more socializing.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, Mar 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

7. Adjournment at 8:45 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold