

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition General Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In Attendance: Asma Abdullah, Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Megan Burnett, Artie Crocker, Nivedi Das, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Lauren Goloboy, Judy Karlin, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Paul Lauenstein, Charlotte Pototsky, Elliot Pototsky, Helen Poynton, David Ruggiero, Cheryl Schnitzer, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Jeffrey Xiang

1. Welcome (Cheryl Schnitzer)

- Recited vision statement together.
- Requested that everyone purchase new, reusable shopping bags, featuring the artwork of the 2020 SSC Art Contest high school winners. Funds will be earmarked for youth programs and awards. All Board members are especially requested to buy one.
- Shared a wonderful thank you note received from Sebastian Armstrong, winner of the 2020 SSC High School Sustainability Achievement Award.
- Acknowledged our new SSC Energy Interns: Elliot Pototsky, Charlotte Pototsky, Jeffrey Xiang, Aaron Tamkin, and Aneeza Ahmad. Thanked Simone and mentors for their efforts.
 - Note - The Board voted electronically on moving forward with the SSC Youth Internship Pilot Program (attached below). Motion passed: 11 yes, 1 abstention.
- Introduced David Rugeiro, new Energy Manager for both Sharon and Norwood, who presented to the group:
 - Hired to help Norwood reach its goal of a 20% reduction in municipal energy use over 5 years. Was previously involved with Better Building programs as Data Analyst that reviewed portfolios to reduce energy use.
 - Town of Sharon became a Green Community in 2017. So far Sharon has reduced energy usage by about 13%. Green Community commitment is to reduce by 20%.
 - How is Sharon doing: Average energy usage across the U.S. is about 48.5 btu/sq but our school buildings range from 71-112 btu/sf. Can stand improvement in energy usage in our schools (Town Building does better). We don't consume a lot of electricity; the energy consumption is "all" going to heating.
 - Sharon's water department went through renovation in 2017 and we are doing very well in regards to water usage (at 1.8 MW/million compared to 2.9 MW/million avg).
 - Energy Advisory Committee: David will also be acting as a liaison and is looking for 3 new members for the committee. Goals include bringing more solar, municipal aggregation (buy energy from a 3rd party rather than Eversource), overseeing renewables (solar panel work being installed at East, Heights, Gavins Pond, and potentially other areas). Town will buy the power, but won't control any of the RECs. Sharon adopted a carbon neutral goal, and will need to control both to reach that goal.
 - Challenge: the towns are not staying abreast of the technology they are buying: who is geared toward maintaining the system? There aren't many guidelines of what to do or how to do it. (e.g. David found one of two inverters at the Middle School not currently working - trying to get that rectified).

- Game Plan/Vision: Alphabet Soup - O&M Operations & Management; Monitoring and Verification, Building Management Systems - need overall view of all the buildings. Also working on Grants to help support above.
 - Asked to stand in on new HS and new Library building committees to make them more energy efficient.
 - If anyone has further ideas/suggestions on grants or how to make things more efficient, contact David at 781.413.4720, druggiero@norwoodma.gov.
- Artie Crocker (of NEC Solar) recently donated \$200 to SSC. Thank you, Artie!
 - Lauren Goloboy will be trying out new pickers for street cleanup work, and will let everyone know how they work. Tommy will give street update. To organize a street cleanup, email Lauren at sponsorastreet@gmail.com
 - Cheryl reported that SSC is trying to complete a proposal to become an MVP town which would open us up to new grants. See Google doc application to assist (with the context of making our town as resilient as possible). Timeline is to submit info by next Wed night and then Cheryl and Kathi M. will polish it up and submit.
 - Regarding purchasing reusable bags, Ricky added she will be including a number in each bag, and when your number is chosen it will be your turn to go on Facebook and do something fun/silly. Need assistance in being able to take credit cards outside the website (e.g. need hotspot). Please sign-up for time slots to sell bags at Shaws (wearing facemasks and observing social distancing).

2. Voted on the SSC Word of the year - Our new word is: RETHINK!

3. Members broke into three Zoom breakout rooms to reflect on, brainstorm, and fill in Sandra Wildland's strategic planning sheets. The three areas were:

GROUP 1: SSC Energy and Climate Committee (led by Artie Crocker)

GROUP 2: SSC Zero Waste Committee (led by Debbie Tatro)

GROUP 3: SSC Communities, Interfaith, and Multicultural Committee (led by Asma Abdullah)

Break-out exercise led to a lot of great ideas. Committees will now meet offline to finetune and continue completing the strategic plan. (due Sept 15th)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EVWUBEdEM6YShihlGETzCYK938pfgUtUIhiNhb5irjA/edit?usp=sharing>

4. New/other business:

- Paul working on plan for athletic fields. Received signatures from 10-12 town groups.
- Ricky contacted Springfield to see how nice a natural, organic field can be. Cheryl suggested Paul and Ricky get together and work with those in town.

5. Motion to approve minutes from the last 2 meetings - Approved (9 hands up)

Next SSC monthly meeting: Wed. Sept. 2nd, 7:00 PM. Guest speaker: Kirstie Pecci, Director of the Zero Waste Project and a Senior Fellow at Conservation Law Foundation

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold

SSC Youth Internship Pilot: Energy Certificate Program

“You either stick to the status quo or you change it. Crack open your potential and see what you’re capable of, not what you’re comfortable with.” —Kaplan University TV Commercial

Sustainable Sharon Coalition (SSC) is offering a pilot program to high school students to educate **residents** about and **also help** promote clean energy in Sharon. By the end of the program, the students will have a new understanding of clean energy as well as a glimpse into what *an environmental stewardship career could look like for them.?*

This Energy Certificate program is an eight week pilot, starting August 2020, and the students will be organized as a team, with no more than eight students.

The SSC Energy committee and volunteers will teach the high school team about clean energy, solar panels, batteries, energy efficient buildings, solar programs across the state of Massachusetts, laws, energy conservation, and careers in the solar energy field.

Possible ideas for student tasks are to:

- 1) Learn the history and technology of solar energy generation.
- 2) Learn about the different career opportunities in the green energy industry, e.g., Solar Consultant, Project Manager, Electrician, and Installer.
- 3) Learn about the benefits and incentives of going solar and adding battery storage.
- 4) Learn about solar products and how consultations are done.
- 5) Learn how to identify houses that are good solar candidates using Google Sunroof.
- 6) Use PV value to assess the increased value of viable homes.
- 7) Start a clean energy awareness campaign using social media, etc.
- 8) Identify houses in Sharon with existing solar, take photos or videos.
- 9) Interview homeowners with existing solar panels so they can share their solar experience. Ask for reviews.

- 10) Learn about and then teach homeowners about batteries.
- 11) Attach door hangers to houses that are good solar candidates.
- 12) Recruit friends to spread the word about the campaign.
- 13) Design a solar scavenger hunt.
- 14) Start a solar power club.
- 15) Help the Sharon Girl Scouts earn their solar badge.
- 16) Partner with Town Officials, the Adult Center/Council on Aging at the Sharon Community Center, Sharon Historical Society, PTO, Houses of Worship and more to promote clean energy.
- 17) Organize a webinar.
- 18) Create green energy content and graphics for Sustainable Sharon's website.
- 19) Culminating final project: work as a team to create a PowerPoint presentation to use when educating others about green energy; and/or, create a proposal to "Solarize Sharon," <https://www.masscec.com/solarize-mass-1>.

Organizer: Simone Tamkin, Sustainable Sharon Coalition

Key mentors:

- Artie Crocker, NEC Solar
- Liz Thomson, NEC Solar
- Paul Lauenstein, Sustainable Sharon Coalition
- Tim Humphreys, Sustainable Sharon Coalition
- Adam Shain, Sharon Resident

When students complete the eight week internship program satisfactorily, with a working knowledge of green energy, they will be awarded an SSC Certificate of Completion.

Disclaimer: Although the program may incorporate mentors from different companies, this internship certificate pilot program is educational—it is not designed to partner with or promote sales for any one company.