

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In attendance: Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Molli Denrich, Danielle Dupre, Kathy Farrell, Ralph Halpern, Zobia Imam, Judy Karlin, Paul Lauenstein, Guoqiang Li, Michael Littman, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Kellie O'Shea, Ted Philips, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, Laura Henze Russell, Cheryl Schnitzer, Dave Slater, Maggie Sullivan, Hanna Switekowski, Debbie Tatro, Sandra Widland, Alice Zaniewski

1. Welcome: Cheryl led in reading the Vision Statement: *we inspire, educate, connect, and catalyze our community to protect the planet.* Please click "Join Us!" on the website and encourage your family and friends to do so as well. Reminder that the SSC word of the year is "**reimagine.**"
2. Secretary's Report (Marlene): February minutes were accepted.
3. State Representative Ted Philips and Select Board Member Hanna Switekowski provided wonderful updates about sustainability efforts/initiatives in the Massachusetts and Sharon.
4. Black History Month continues (Cheryl)
 - a. March: SSC Book Group, *The Intersectional Environmentalist* by Leah Thomas. Pre-order the book if interested in participating.
 - b. April: Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. Cheryl asked for those interested to sign up. For [information and registration, click here](#). Comment in the SSC Facebook group thread, #FSNE 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge
5. SSC Sharon Green Day (Ellen) - We were hoping to get SMS, but they aren't accepting outside groups. We are now planning for our 10th anniversary for next year, which is 10 years from when we were incorporated (rather than when SSC first started meeting). We are still having a tree planting ceremony in April and will make that the start of the celebratory year. It is the day after Earth Day.
6. SSC Interest Group reports:
 - a. Food (Alice) - Working on an online SSC community cookbook which will include plant-based recipes. Also thinking about using YouTube cooking videos and keeping SSC video channel active.

- b. Transportation (Mike) - We were awarded a Safe Routes to School grant. It's a long term project, with a lot of follow-up work to be done. Bike lane preliminary designs for bike paths along South Main St. One area to work on is shrinking down travel lanes. Putting together a research memo for the town and comments of different design elements we want to see. If you want to be involved, let Mike know.
 - c. Energy (Ralph) - Following the proposal by Eversource. Included in the original filing was a line connecting Sharon-Brockton. Wasn't a lot of detail at the time. It's for winter peak periods and now they are saying it's an alternative source of supply, but still looking into it and nothing is determined yet.
 - d. Youth (Charlotte) - Working on April 23rd tree planting event and fundraising. Also working with some clubs at the high school. No rain date at this time. (Doing Lynn Wolbarst award at the same time, so we'll need a rain date in case.) Officials planning to come. April 22nd is Earth Day, so it's a great time to have the planting.
 - e. Awards (Sandra) - Lynn W award recognizes someone who is doing good environmentally in the Sharon community. So please consider nominating someone. [Nominations being accepted](#) until April 10th, 5pm.
 - f. SSC Kids - starting up again after winter break.
 - g. Website redesign (Danielle for Megan) - Chose Squarespace and have been busy getting the content moved over. Shooting for April 1st for a soft launch of the new site.
7. Liaison and other reports:
- a. 350 Mass greater Franklin node (Ralph): Rally for "Fix The Grid" April 16 at 4:30pm near the State House. Can register and add your voice. Asked the 6 gas companies what they are doing to help. Get in touch with Ralph if you want to coordinate participation in the rally.
 - b. Lake Massapoag cleanup project (Rory): Cleanup is scheduled for June 11. Looking to clear invasive species and nearby storm drains in preparation for the opening of the lake one week later. Lake Management Committee is looking into organizing these cleanups on an ongoing basis. Laura Berger is the driving force and Rory is bringing in Neponset Water shed to help out.
 - c. Sharon Field Feasibility Study (Linda Berger, Director of Recreation, Town of Sharon): Linda gave a presentation on a new field feasibility study that was recently completed by Activitas, a town hired consultant. It showed we have sufficient baseball/softball diamonds, but need more larger-sized playing fields for flag football, soccer, etc. 70% of Sharon is conservation land. We would prefer to use town owned land; we don't want to have to purchase. Our biggest need is in the spring with 1450 multi-users. We need 16 fields to meet the need. Proposal

includes 13 fields which will help close the gap. Looking to reconfigure Deborah Sampson and relocate community gardens to provide a field/diamond in that space. Also looking to reconfigure Ames St fields to provide additional fields and acquire 229 Lakeview St.

- d. Paul - In synergy with finding space for more fields, there is a group trying to do innovative things to get more playing time on the fields we have. Using sandmastering to drain water faster and dormant seeding in December to grow more tolerant and resilient grass. It's challenging to demonstrate enhanced field maintenance with all the extra traffic due to HS fields being out of commission.
8. Other business
- a. Gorilla on the Line campaign (Linda Orel and Betsy Strauss): Daughters Alexa and Samantha are working with Franklin Park Zoo on their Bat Mitzvahs projects. They are helping the zoo with a campaign that collects old cell phones and electronics for their valuable metal. By providing this source of metal, it is less likely the metal will need to be mined in the Congo which hurts gorilla habitats. The campaign is collecting through April 30th. Hoping for SSC Support to get the word out and to give ideas for a possible collection point.
 - The library and Temple Sinai were suggested, and SSC can promote through newsletter and facebook.
 - b. MassEnergize websites (Paul):
 - Medfield: <https://community.massenergize.org/MedfieldMA>
 - MassEnergize: <https://www.massenergize.org> based in Concord. Great website. \$2,000 to undertake a website. Gives opportunity to report the actions of individuals. Please go look at it and check it out.
 - c. High School Senior Sustainability Award - Due April 15th, please encourage students to apply. Doesn't have to go to SHS, but needs to be a Sharon student.
9. Next Meetings
- a. SSC General meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 - Helen Poynton, Ph.D., Associate Professor School for the Environment
UMass Boston, Mosquito Control and Recommendations
 - b. SSC Board meeting: Monday, March 28th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (postponed)
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold