

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sustainable Sharon Coalition General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>**

In attendance: Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Ellen Bordman, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Silas Fyler, Ralph Halpern, Judy Jacobs, Judith Karlin, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Charlotte Pototsky, Cheryl Schnitzer, David Slater, Ricky Stern, Hanna Switekowski (Select Board Member), Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Melissa Tian, Sandra Widland, Steve Zeitler

Additional attendance for the Read for the Planet book group: Liz Moore, Shawn Moriarty, Patrick Kinney, Julie Volkman, Sharon Kashida

1. Read for the Planet Book Group discussion (Chapter 8, Actions 1-4): The larger group separated into break-out rooms to discuss which of the first four actions resonated the most: which would be easiest to achieve and which would be more challenging.
2. Steve Zeitler recited the Vision Statement for the group.
3. Minutes from the February meeting were accepted (as corrected via email).
4. President's Remarks: We have started accepting applications for the High School Senior Sustainability award. The application form is on the website.
5. Treasurer's Report: We received \$622 in February from various sources. There were no unusual expenses for the month.
6. Committee Chair Reports:
  - a. Education
    - Cheryl asked for feedback on the book club: Is it something we want to do again? Same format? Any feedback should be forwarded to Cheryl.
    - Bri McAlevey reported that Karen (director of Moosehill) is enthusiastic about hosting a movie event with us, but needs to check on timing due to Covid.
  - b. Energy & Climate
    - Silas Fyler reported that the Town is moving forward with the landfill solar project. Gavins Pond will begin next year. Town Energy Manager David Ruggiero started installing EV charging stations around town. No new numbers to report for Sharon Power Choice enrollment at this time.
    - Cheryl reported that the webinar with David Green called "Zero Carbon, Zero Bills" was very interesting and well attended. The recording is available on the

website for anyone who wasn't able to attend.

- c. Zero Waste Committee: Debbie Tatro attended the Select Board meeting where the town was voting on a motion to add a flat \$25 to the trash fee regardless of container size. The Select Board was open to SSC concerns but the motion still passed. The Select Board suggested 6 months to come up with a better plan at which time they would revisit the fee.

Hanna Switlekowski, member of the Select Board, thanked SSC for helping to educate the town on issues like trash and hopes we will continue our efforts. With SSC help, Hanna would like to continue looking for ways to save money on trash, including encouraging composting (perhaps recommending a trash discount to those who compost).

- Can we include information on how to reduce trash with the bills that announce the fee increase? Hanna advised we reach out to Fred by email to see if we can get a flier into future bills. (Probably too late for the April bill.)
  - The town/schools will be hiring a part time recycling coordinator and the person will be charged with some educational programming as well. Students can hopefully bring home what they learned to their parents and help reduce the amount of their trash.
  - The SHS Environmental Club will look into providing more educational presentations as well.
- d. Youth: Aneeza Ahmad reported that the PTSO is partnering with Homeworks Energy for a fundraiser. Homeworks will donate \$50 to the Environmental Club for each completed home energy audit. Sign up at: [hwe.click/shsec](http://hwe.click/shsec).

## 7. Other Business

- a. Lynn Wolbarst SSC Sustainability Award: Sandra Widland announced applications are now being accepted for this annual award. The deadline is April 4th. This year, the award criteria was made clearer. If you have feedback on how to make other improvements to the process, please let Sandra know. Please consider nominating someone at <https://sustainablesharon.org/lynn-wolbarst-award/>.
- b. Lake Massapoag Clean-up: Rory announced June 12th (Sat morning 8:30-11:30am) for the clean up date; the Lake opens up the following weekend. Neponset River Watershed Association will assist in looking for areas most in need of clean up. We are hoping 100 or more people come out to help. We would also like to get the SHS Environmental Club involved in both planning and participation. There will be a registration process to enable people to sign up, and keep it Covid-safe.

- Ricky suggested that it would be nice to have people take a number and clean that area all summer.
  - Cheryl suggested that it would be great to join forces with Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.
- c. SSC draft questions for School Committee candidates: Bri came up with the following questions to which candidates can post their responses on the website:
- At the 2019 Town Meeting, four passionate Sharon High School students presented a warrant article for a public commitment to get the town to zero carbon emissions by 2050. It passed with overwhelming support. What can Sharon Public Schools do to reach net zero emissions in our schools by 2050?
  - In 2020, the Town voted for a three-year moratorium on an artificial turf athletic field at the high school. If the opportunity to install an artificial turf field comes before the school committee again would you vote for or against it? Why?
  - The position for the school district recycling coordinator was created by SSC through a MassDEP grant. The position has evolved into a recycling coordinator working to benefit both the schools and the town. In what ways can you show support for the new recycling coordinator?
- d. Cheryl asked if anyone knows where the town's Master Plan stands on green initiatives and sustainability? What is in the town charter regarding the environment and biodiversity? Does someone want to look into this?
8. Announcements: Ralph Halpern announced upcoming Lobby Day organized by Mass Power Forward. There will be Zoom meetings with Rep. Philip and Sen. Feeney. Email Ralph if interested.
9. Next General Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Next Board meeting is April 21st. Please consider running for a board position.
10. Adjournment at 8:33 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold