

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

In attendance: Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Stuart Brown, Megan Burnett, Nivedi Das, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Lauren Goloboy, Tommy Goloboy, Ralph Halpern, Tim Humphreys, Judy Jacobs, Judith Karlin, Sharon Kishida, Paul Lauenstein, Michael Littman, Bri McAlevey, Rory McGregor, Kathi Mirza, Michael Pierce, Charlotte Pototsky, Cheryl Schnitzer, Ricky Stern, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Sandra Widland, Alice Zaniewski, Hanna Switekowski, Ted Philips, Madhavi Poreddy

Additional attendance for the Read for the Planet book group only: Liz Moore, Michael Pierce

1. Read for the Planet Book Group discussion (The Future We Choose - Chapter 8, Actions 5-8): Larger group separated into 2 break-out rooms to discuss what actions we can take on a personal and community level. Results will help steer SSC initiatives.
2. Michael Littman recited the Vision Statement for the group.
3. Minutes from the March meeting were accepted. On March 8th, Bri MacAlvey announced via email her intention of signing SSC on to a letter in support of the 100% Clean Act (see attached). There was no objection.
4. President's Remarks: "Braiding Sweetgrass" has been suggested as our new Read for the Planet book choice. We will meet once on Wednesday, May 26th, 7:00-8:30 PM to discuss the book, separate from our usual meeting time, <https://sustainablesharon.org/readfortheplanetinfo-2/>.
5. No Treasurer's report this month.
6. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Education (Nivedi Das): Read for the planet will be continuing. The committee is also collecting applications for the SSC Sustainability Award for HS seniors that live in Sharon - the deadline is May 21st, <https://sustainablesharon.org/senior-award/>.
 - b. Zero Waste Committee (Debbie Tatro): The committee is working on ways to improve and educate residents on the trash/recycling program. The AG approved our moratorium on artificial turf, and Debbie is now assisting other New England towns in fighting artificial turf.
 - c. Youth (Aneeza Ahmad): The committee is busy fundraising, and working with the town to set up a date in the spring for the tree planting event. Each tree is \$250.

- One topic that came up during the book club, was how do we educate ourselves on “Tree policy” in Sharon. Suggestion to have Kevin Weber as a future speaker.
7. We were fortunate to have State Representative Ted Philips attend our meeting and briefly update the group on what he’s been working on. Rep Philips gave a “shout out” to Ralph, Bri, Rory and Paul for organizing and participating in Mass Power Forward (MPF) Lobby Day. MPF is a coalition of over 200 environmentally focused groups and leaders. MPF endorsed the legislature's effort to resubmit the climate bill that was originally vetoed by Governor Baker. The bill was subsequently approved/signed last month. At the virtual event, Rep. Philips (along with Senator Paul Feeney) discussed several Mass Power Forward legislative priorities.

In addition, working with the [Mattress Recycling Council](#), Rep. Philips recently filed a bill (H988) to establish a mattress recycling program in the Commonwealth. It will set up a council to oversee a mattress stewardship program, which will work with producers to set up a system, like those already in Connecticut & Rhode Island, to responsibly handle mattress recycling at the end of its life span.

8. Project Updates

- a. Lynn Wolbarst Award (Sandra Widland): Reminder to submit nominations by this weekend. Looking to present the award on the same day as the Youth committee tree planting day.
- b. Sponsor-a-Street, Earth Day Litter Cleanup (Tommy Goloboy): The program will start up again on April 22nd (Earth Day). There are trash bags and clean-up tools available to borrow. A drawing for Crescent Ridge gift cards will be held as incentive for posting on social media about the event.
- c. Lake Massapoag Clean-up (Rory McGregor): Sharon residents are invited to volunteer on Saturday June 12th between 8:30-11:30 AM and remove litter/debris/recyclables from beaches/paths/roads. Sustainable Sharon Coalition is partnering with Neponset River Watershed Association to sponsor the cleanup. <https://www.neponset.org/sharon-lake-cleanup/>
- d. Questions for School Committee and Select Board candidates (Bri and Cheryl): See the website for the prompt and candidate responses, starting April 24th.

9. Liaison reports:

- a. MCAN Liaison Report (Judy Jacobs): Tim Cronin from ClimateXChange spoke about new climate legislation at the MCAN meeting. Cheryl suggested that we bring him in to speak to talk to us about the legislation in the next couple of months. Suggestion to invite Tim Cronin to a meeting about the Climate Emergency Declaration.

- b. 350Mass, greater Franklin node (Ralph Halpern): 350Mass is organized by the node (as opposed to the town) and there are about 20 nodes across the Commonwealth. The greater Franklin node tries to meet with all surrounding towns and hold meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. They are currently focusing on 3 campaigns: Green New Deal housing (retrofitting), transportation (EVs), solar and alternative energy. There's a newsletter with a list of activities e.g. webinars, events, etc. Ralph was invited to add to Molli's google doc to include in the SSC e-newsletter.

10. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Next Board meeting - **rescheduled to Sunday, April 25th, 7:00- 8:30 PM**
- b. Next General meeting - **Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7:00 - 8:30 PM** featuring investment speaker, Paul Hilton, who will talk about "Investing to Fight Climate Change."
- c. Read for the Planet, *Braiding Sweetgrass* - **Rescheduled to Wednesday, May 26th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM.**

11. Guest Speaker (Madhavi Poreddy): Madhavi is a passionate gardener who is working on a project for educating youth in India on how to grow saplings. Youth volunteers learn how to grow plants from seeds to saplings. They can then return the sapling or make a donation to keep it. Only organic methods are used, such as homemade compost and fertilizer. Madhavi has raised ~ \$700 for the project which helps racially challenged kids. Attendees were invited to remain after the meeting adjourned to continue the discussion.

12. Adjournment at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlene Arnold

The 100% Clean Act
100% clean electricity by 2035
100% clean heating and transportation by 2045

An Act transitioning Massachusetts to clean electricity, heating, and transportation

HD.3551: Rep. Marjorie Decker, Rep. Sean Garballey

SD.2205: Sen. Joseph Boncore

Dear state officials,

As [*types of organizations — e.g., “environmental, public health, and business organizations”*], we support the 100% Clean Act, filed by Rep. Marjorie Decker, Rep. Sean Garballey, and Sen. Joseph Boncore (HD.3551, SD.2205).

Polluting sources of energy, like oil and gas, are harming our health and changing our climate in dangerous ways. Fortunately, we can power our electric grid, our buildings, and our transportation system with clean energy from sources like the sun and the wind.

When we achieve 100 percent clean energy, our families will be healthier and we’ll help prevent the worst impacts of global warming. Increasing our reliance on local sources of renewable energy will also make our communities stronger and more resilient.

The 100% Clean Act will transition Massachusetts to 100 percent clean electricity by 2035 and 100 percent clean heating and transportation by 2045. It lays out clear requirements and actions for the Commonwealth to achieve these objectives, while ensuring that workers and environmental justice communities are included in the transition to clean energy.

Please support this important legislation to protect our health, our climate, and our children's future.

Sincerely,