

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sustainable Sharon Coalition Board Meeting**  
**Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7 PM**  
**Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>**

In attendance: Cheryl Schnitzer, Colleen Mirabello, Molli Denrich, Ellen Bordman, Debbie Choudhury, Kathi Mirza, CP Potosky

1. The meeting began at 7:06. With only 7 of 15 board members present, we did not have a quorum.
2. We began by discussing recent SSC events. The feeling was that they have been good events (40-50 attendees). Doing things this way is “liberating but time-consuming.” It has been a team effort, and the events have been very educational. Since meetings aren’t monthly, people need to know to check the calendar for schedule of events. Events should be scheduled farther in advance. We discussed various ways to advertise: The Dispatch (from the schools), patch.com, Sharon Cultural Council, printouts to post around town, personal invitations. We noted that when events are advertised on Facebook, others should comment on the posts to boost their visibility.
3. Minutes from September: if you have suggestions for last meeting’s minutes email Marlene.
4. We discussed prior votes approved via email. The letter to the financial committee regarding MWRA water received 9 yes votes. The letter about the Massachusetts Clean Heat Platform received 12 yes votes.
5. Treasurer report: No report.
6. Event communication: A question was raised if we should be sending thank-yous to those involved in the events. Yes - this is already on the checklist.
7. Kathi secured a speaker for December: Gretchen Carey. She works for Republic Services and is the president of Mass Recycle. We discussed where to hold the event, noting several locations around town. Kathi emailed Fred Turkington during the meeting to see if he had any suggestions.
8. CP Talking to Emily Burke about a recycling coordinator at the High School. The HS pointed CP to SSC. CP is going to try to talk to Wen Tiano. The HS needs a long-term person. Cheryl had asked about it on 11/15 and is going to ping again. DPW said we don't have a job posting for it at this time. CP talking to Liz Curly and Black Earth Compost. Kathi will email.

9. We discussed the monthly newsletter. The question was asked if it's okay when events are scheduled after the newsletter goes out. Molli says she sends as time allows. She is having to invent more content for the newsletter each month. Views/clicks are consistent so it seems valuable to continue sending.
10. Colleen explained the Energy SIG's proposal for a January event: a collaboration with the Sharon Historical Society. There would be a brief presentation on how home heating has historically been done in Sharon and then a panel discussion about heat pumps, utilizing some of the volunteers from our Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative. Others thought this idea was worth pursuing so Colleen will work with the SHS to get a date ASAP.
11. We discussed a potential February event but nothing was decided.
12. Newsletter member spotlight: Cheryl proposed this idea and asked if anyone wants to do it. People liked the idea but no one volunteered to take point. Someone would need to select a member to highlight, and ask them for their photo and some content. Molli is happy to include this in the newsletter if someone wants to provide content. The idea of a high school student was proposed which CP will look into.
13. Skip the Stuff letter: Vote passed via email, Cheryl will sign and send the letter.
14. We discussed linking to a blog post on the website. This provides new content for the front page. Suggested that organizers create a blog post related to their event beforehand to help advertise. After the event, an update could be made to discuss how it went.
15. STEAM night at Cottage Street School on February 6th. Colleen is willing to be at the table, will probably need more help. CP still has the ring toss from last year. Additional suggestion of a "Can I recycle this?" game or a recycling quiz (Kathi sent <https://recyclesmartma.org/quiz/>). Colleen will try to find volunteers.
16. Keep Sharon Beautiful: They have not applied to be a SIG. Colleen did not ask them to after it was unclear whether all Board members supported the idea. Colleen and CP explained the background: Neil Rhein emailed SSC over the summer to ask if SSC wanted to take KSB under its umbrella and provide adult input. Colleen pursued the idea and connected the group with Katherine Hughes, an SSC member interested in litter cleanups. CP has been a liaison between SSC and KSB. KSB is a high school group, which means that they are separate from SSC. Katherine (or any SSC adult) can't attend their meetings in person and has no real say over what they do. At this point, SSC does not want to take over KSB. We could have a liaison from SSC Youth (currently CP, will need to be someone else in the spring). Colleen can tell Katherine she doesn't need to stay involved if she doesn't want to. Regarding the [keepsharonbeautiful@sustainablesharon.org](mailto:keepsharonbeautiful@sustainablesharon.org) email address, any email sent from this address will need to be run by CP or another SSC member for approval first. Colleen will

draft an email to KSB/Katherine to explain.

17. Colleen briefly explained the Energy SIG's Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative and encouraged everyone to sign up and share it with others.

18. Discussed Canva to advertise. An SSC Canva account exists. Cheryl will send login to Colleen and Debbie.

19. The meeting ended at 8:16.

Minutes submitted by Colleen Mirabello