

Town of Scarborough Conservation Commission

March 8, 2021 | 6:00 p.m. | Virtual meeting via Zoom

Recording of the meeting is available on the [Town of Scarborough's YouTube channel](#).

Meeting Minute

Present: Councilor John Cloutier, Rachel Hendrickson, Noah Perlut, Pete Slovinsky, Chuck Spangler, Emily Springer, Jami Fitch, Jamel Torres

Guest: Andrew Mackie, Executive Director of Scarborough Land Trust

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Call to order

1. Committee voted to accept the minutes from the 2/8/2021 meeting. Motion was made by Rachel and seconded by Chuck. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
2. Committee approved the 3/8/21 meeting agenda.

Old Business

1. Scarborough Land Trust
 - Andrew Mackie, Executive Director of the Scarborough Land Trust (SLT), attended the meeting to introduce himself and discuss SLT's current projects and priorities.
2. Committee Consolidation
 - Plans to consolidate Town committees have been put on pause for the moment. The Conservation Commission and Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) will remain separate for the foreseeable future. The Commission will explore opportunities to partner with the PMAC.
3. Green Bank
 - No bill language has been released. Once a bill is available, it will be provided to the Commission.
4. Climate Action Planning
 - Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission received a grant to develop a coastal resilience plan for the ten southern-most Maine coastal communities (Kittery to Scarborough). Process will include assessing coastal impacts, address regional resilience needs, address adaptation strategies, and identify nature-based solutions for our changing coastline. Scarborough will have a role in this planning process, but we have not heard when the effort will get underway.
 - There was some discussion related to the *Maine Won't Wait* Climate Action Plan, the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and the Sustainability Committee's role in climate action.

Planning & Code Enforcement

- Jami shared that the Sustainability Committee's focus is currently on developing an ordinance to allow utility-scale solar development in Scarborough. The hope is that an ordinance will be in place by late spring or early summer.
- The Comprehensive Plan has been provided to GPCOG for their review. The Council should begin to process of reviewing and approving the Plan once GPCOG completes their review. There will still be an opportunity for public comment on the Comprehensive Plan as part of the Council's review process.
- The Commission would like to look at the Flood Resilience Checklist in conjunction with the draft Comprehensive Plan to find some overlap.
- **ACTION: The COMMISSION MEMBERS will review the flood resilience check list and identify areas where they would like more information. COMMISSIONERS will reach out to Jami by 3/26 with these items so she has time to pull information together before the April meeting.**
- **ACTION: JAMI will email Commissioners with action items from the meeting and the flood resilience checklist document.**

Updates

1. Town Council

- Council is working on updating the fireworks ordinance. The Council will likely compromise to still allow fireworks on four designated days per year but restrict the areas of Town where they may be set off.
- The Council will discuss growth management at an upcoming workshop. Council would welcome the Commission's input into growth management issues. Rachel suggests encouraging infill development by allowing growth permits in already developed areas, rather than opening up undeveloped land.

2. Planning Board

- The Planning Board provided a positive advisory opinion for ecomaine's solar array, which is being proposed on their landfill in Scarborough.

3. Sustainability Committee

- There was some discussion of incentivizing rooftop solar instead of ground-mounted solar to minimize the impact of solar development on open space.
 - There are currently no financial incentives (other than saving on electricity costs) for rooftop solar in Scarborough's ordinances.
 - Some studies have shown that solar development can help boost agricultural production if pollinator habitat is planted in conjunction with the solar arrays.
 - Noah would like to see the Commission work with the Sustainability Committee to encourage rooftop solar development so that open space may be preserved. Rachel recommends looking at the Innovation District in The Downs as a possible area to target rooftop solar.

4. Legislation – The Pinetree Amendment

- There is a bill in the Legislature to update Maine's Constitution to add new rights to clean air, clean water, and a livable and sustainable environment (which includes a

stable climate). This amendment could serve as a backstop for other legislation and would be applicable to all areas of government and regulation. For the amendment to pass, it would need support of 2/3 of both the Maine House and Senate and pass a statewide referendum vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.