

# Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

July 24, 2024 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

## *Meeting Minutes*

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Patrice Kastenzholz, Lydia Jopp, David Kirstein, Deb McDonough, Rick Meinking

Town Council: April Sither

Staff: Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager

Attendance – Zoom

Staff: Autumn Speer, Planning Director

*To re-play the Sustainability Committee's 7/24/24 meeting, please use the following link:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7\\_pxG6HcL8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7_pxG6HcL8)

### **Call to Order**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.
2. The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the 5/22/24 meeting. Deb motioned to approve the minutes, Ron seconded. Vote was unanimous.
3. Rick adds electricity procurement to the agenda under Old Business.

### **Public Comment**

1. None.

### **Old Business**

1. Sustainability Fund
  - Rich shares that he spoke briefly with Councilor Anderson about meeting with the Finance Committee about establishing a sustainability fund as part of the FY26 budget. Rick intends to follow up with an email to Councilor Anderson.
  - April has also brought the matter up to Councilor Anderson individually and during Town Council meetings. She would like to see the Finance Committee take up this item before the November election when the Committee members are likely to change.
  - **ACTIONS: RICK will email Councilor Anderson to request the Sustainability Fund be placed on an upcoming Finance Committee agenda.**
2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - Jami shares that the Town received notification that the proposed project (planning a municipal solar array) was approved by the EECBG program. We are now in a holding pattern until the Department of Energy assigns us a technical service provider. We were told more information will likely be available in the fall.

## **Engineering & Technical Services**

259 US Route One | PO Box 360 | Scarborough, ME 04070 | P: 207.730.4400 | [scarboroughmaine.org](http://scarboroughmaine.org)

### 3. Coastal Meetup

- Emerson provides an overview of the [Coastal Meetup](#) event, scheduled for Thursday, 8/22, at 2:00 pm at the Eastern Trail parking lot on Pine Point Road.
- The event is part of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's (GMRI) coastal flooding and community science project. Participants will learn how to collect photos at different locations throughout Scarborough and upload them to GMRI's website. The project will document coastal flooding over time.
- The timing of the event was selected to coincide with an above average high tide event (estimated tide height is 10.8').
- More information about the event, including a link to register, is on the [Town's website](#).

### 4. Sustainable Scarborough Day

- Jami gives a brief update on the event and verified details.
- Jami notes that the Sustainability Committee should take the lead on planning the Committee's table and potential activity at the event.
- Deb suggests using a portable induction hot plate for a cooking demonstration activity. They could be raffled off as well. Patrice notes that she can coordinate a chef for the demonstration.
- Jami will reach out to all of the vendors to see if there is anything they would like to enter any items into a public raffle.
- Rick suggests a banner across Rt. 114 to promote the event. Jami will coordinate logistics with Community Services.
- Patrice mentions that the Rotary Club is interested in offering an electronics recycling event in conjunction with Sustainable Scarborough Day. Patrice also notes the Garden Club will be at the event again, and will be giving away plants again.
- Rick asks about healthy lawn care initiatives at the event and suggests businesses that can be invited. April will reach out to Green Care to invite them to participate.
- Lydia asks if any input will be collected in the community, which Deb seconds was a helpful engagement tool for the event.
- Jami adds that a new vendor, ME Powered Pastries, is attending and is interested in hosting a demonstration regarding food waste and cooking. Deb notes that demonstration setup can be tailored better for the event as opposed to last year to promote engagement.
- Lydia adds that she is willing to take on some PR for the event.
- Patrice's husband is able to take photographs for the event again.
- Ron asks about a vendor that can address battery backup generators, which could additionally power the induction cooking demonstration. Rick suggests powering the demonstrations using solar, and Jami can reach out to the solar vendors, such as Revision, attending to see what options are available. Rick and Deb suggest that an Electric Vehicle can also be used to power the demonstration, which could be even better. Rick notes a visual element should be added to show how the mechanism works to power the demonstration.
- Patrice suggests inviting a local hardware store to promote battery operated tools, and April suggests Ace Hardware. Patrice volunteers to speak to Ace Hardware to see about a table with demos, such as tools like an electric leaf blower.
- **ACTIONS:**
  - **JAMI will design a banner to be hung across Rt. 114 and coordinate installation with Community Services.**
  - **JAMI will contact ReVision about their tiny home demo and solar panel or battery storage power source for the event.**
  - **LYDIA will submit the event to local online calendars**

- **PATRICE will reach out to Ace Hardware to invite them to participate, Agren Appliance to ask about a donation of induction cook plates, and a chef about providing a cooking demonstration.**
- **APRIL will contact Green Care to invite them to participate.**

#### 5. Electricity Procurement

- Rick requests an update on the Committee's recommendation to the Town Manager/Town Council to purchase certified renewable electricity. Jami shares that the recommendation for certified renewable electricity was approved. April adds it was unanimously supported by the Town Council.

### New Business

#### 1. Nominate and vote for Chair and Vice-Chair

- Anton nominates Rick as Chair and Deb as Vice-Chair, seconded by Patrice. Vote was unanimous.

### Updates

#### 1. Town Council Update

- April notes that nomination papers for Town Council and School Committee are available the first Wednesday in August. Councilor Caterina has resigned and has opened a 2-year seat. Councilors Hamill and McGee are not seeking re-election, so there are two 3-year terms open.
- April adds that the Council had a workshop on the three questions proposed for referendum, including the \$6M Land Bond.
- There is a Council Corner Live on 8/7 that will focus on the Land Bond as well.

#### 2. Planning Board

- Rick discusses the FedEx trucking depot proposal at the former Beech Ridge. The parcel is zoned light industrial and it abuts residential parcels. The Board is trying to incorporate the Good Neighbor Ordinance and doing their due diligence in considering community opinions before approving the project. The Good Neighbor Ordinance relates to mitigating harm to abutters. Traffic is considered in the ordinance. Anton notes that the proposal seems to oppose the vision of development put forth for Scarborough, which highlights the impact of zoning as noted by Rick and April.
- The Board is also reviewing Intermed's proposal for a location in The Downs.
- The Board has been tasked with providing recommendations related to the reopening of Anjon's restaurant on Route 1. The Conservation Commission provided a memo related to the site, which Rick noted was very helpful. The recommendations are in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Rick additionally highlights the importance of providing committee input for future decision making.

#### 2. Conservation Commission

- Jami notes that SEDCO's coordinated a forum for developers to learn about the Commission's proposed environmental standards. The standards were not well received. Next steps include forming a stakeholder group of developers and Commissioners to discuss the standards and work toward a path forward. A roundtable is scheduled for late August, with the goal to have an update for the Ordinance Committee in September.

#### 3. Transportation Committee

- Jami adds that the Transportation Committee is still working on the town-wide Transportation Plan, which Autumn adds will likely impact many Town ordinances in the future. Rick notes that certain developments trigger additional permits with MaineDOT, which require mitigation

- efforts to be funded. For example, adaptive traffic signals will be installed in North Scarborough as part of The Downs' traffic movement permit.
- Council approved updated traffic impact fees in June. These fees are paid by developers to help fund future projects that will mitigate their impact on traffic. Staff proposed a 50/50 split for projects funded by fees, and the Council approved 60/40 with the Town paying 60% of the project cost and developers paying 40%.
4. Planning Projects: Open Space Plan & Vulnerability Assessment
- Open Space Plan
    - A workshop for the Open Space Plan is tomorrow, 7/25, at 6pm. The workshop is a critical part of the community engagement efforts and will allow participants to prioritize land conservation priorities, conservation funding, and data feedback through interactive activities. The consultant will also provide real time feedback for workshop participants. Additional engagement efforts have been taking place at Concerts in the Park, an upcoming the Farmer's Market, and the Scarborough Summer Fest.
    - The Open Space Plan is expected to be complete in early 2025.
  - Vulnerability Assessment
    - A Public Meeting is scheduled for 8/12 to introduce the project and process.
    - The consultants will conduct field work over the summer and will focus on sewer pump stations.
    - Neighborhood-specific meetings are scheduled for the Higgins neighborhood on 9/5 and Pine Point neighborhood on 9/24
    - The Vulnerability Assessment is expected to wrap up in Summer 2025.

Next Meeting: August 28, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

**Future Projects List:**

- Coordination with Scarborough Public Schools
- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Municipal building energy audits
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Electric school buses
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting
- Tree preservation ordinance