

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

September 25, 2024 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Patrice Kastenholz, David Kirstein, Deb McDonough

Town Council: April Sither

Staff: Jami Fitch, Emerson Goodrich

To re-play the Sustainability Committee's 9/25/24 meeting, please use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzDY3pSK6QA&t=57s>

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:015 am.
2. David motions to approve the minutes, Patrice seconds. Vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. EV Charging Ordinance
 - Jami walks through the wording changing in the EV Ordinance, notably the revised wording of the definition of “EVCS-ready.” This revision will better accommodate the price of transformers, but is still a step above “EVCS-capable.”
 - Ron and Patrice suggest changing the wording slightly for clarity. David suggests adding a diagram.
 - Jami discusses further changes regarding wording around EV charging build out and placement, which has not been finalized for the Committee’s review yet.
 - Deb and Jami discuss proposed changes to the number of EV spaces required for commercial businesses and what seems most appropriate moving forward, including backing down the current 25% of spaces EV buildout requirement to 10% of spaces rounded up to the closest even number for ease of install.
 - The Ordinance will be revisited next meeting with more recommendations around shared parking in mixed use developments.
2. Sustainable Scarborough Day
 - There are 33 registered vendors for this year’s event, up from 25 last year.
 - This year’s workshops will cover reducing food waste, electrifying the households, and sustainable transportation.
 - There will be EVs available for test drives, as well as E-bikes.

Engineering & Technical Services

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- There will be live music and two food trucks.
- The banner has been installed and can be seen above Gorham Rd.
- Thanks to the Committee members who are available to volunteer at the event.

New Business

1. Committee Term Limits

- Town Council voted on 9/4 to set term limits for advisory committees, limiting members to three consecutive 3-year terms. The new rule is also retroactive.
- Rick and David will be termed out at the end of their current terms (2024), and will be required to take one year off the Committee. There are stipulations that if there is no one to replace the members who are termed out, current members can stay on until a replacement is made. Serving as an alternate does not count towards these term limits.
- Deb suggests the Appointments and Negotiations Committee work with current committee members to see who is ready to stop serving. This approach would help support committee continuity.
- April notes that the communication between Appointments and Negotiations and the chairs of committees should be improved as to better fill committees with qualified applicants.

Updates

1. Town Council

- The Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) provided a workshop to the Town Council on 9/18. There was little in terms of updates but recognition that communication between MTA and community members has been poor. The Council will vote on a resolution to withdraw support for the Gorham connector at their 10/2 meeting.
- David adds that the MTA presentation was extremely poor, and left those wondering if they had sufficient information to request Council support. April notes that the Council voted on the resolution to support MTA's proposal 2.5 years ago, and the question now becomes have they done what they said they would do, the consensus of which is no. The Town Council will decide whether to create new parameters or simply withdraw support.
- Candidates night for those running for Town Council, School Committee, and Scarborough Sanitary District seats is tonight.

2. Planning Board

- Jami shares there is little on Planning Board agendas currently.

3. Conservation Commission

- A Jami explains that the Commission is still working on the Environmental Standards and recently had a round table meeting with the development community and Town Councilors. Some common ground was found regarding protections around wetlands. As a first step, the proposed standards will be revised to include just a 25-foot setback, including a 15-foot vegetated buffer, around wetlands. This revised version will go to the Ordinance Committee in September.
- The stakeholder group will reconvene in January to look at buffers and setbacks around other resources. The State will soon require the Town to adopt Low Impact Development standards, and the stakeholder group may also provide input to those standards.
- The Conservation Commission will likely take up either pesticide restrictions or tree protection next.

4. Transportation Committee

- Transportation Committee did not meet this month, but it is still working on reviewing and finalizing the Town's transportation study.

5. Open Space Plan

- Jami requests that Committee members answer the Open Space survey questions sent out, and additionally send it to others who may be interested in providing input to the plan.
- There will be a table at Sustainable Scarborough Day to solicit responses from the public as well.
- The project is scheduled to wrap up in early 2025, and a draft is expected in November. Another survey will be available to allow the public to provide feedback on the draft plan.

6. Vulnerability Assessment

- A neighborhood meeting was held with Pine Point last night, and one with Higgins Beach earlier in September. The meetings focus on impacts of sea level rise on these communities over the next 80 years. Participants also discuss adaptation strategies. Both neighborhoods are built on dune systems, which limits available adaptation options.
- The Consultants plan to conduct field work of sanitary sewer pump stations this fall.
- There will be 3-5 sites in Town that will be selected as pilot projects. More in-depth recommendations and preliminary designs will be developed for these sites.
- The project should wrap up by summer 2025. The draft findings will be presented at a Town Council workshop in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 am.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2024

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