

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

February 26, 2025 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholz, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch

Attendance – Zoom

Staff: Helen Harmon, Autumn Speer

Public: Geoff Gezik, resident and pending Committee Alternate; David Kunhardt, resident

[View the recording of the Sustainability Committee's 2/26/25 meeting.](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am.
2. Lydia motions to approve the minutes, Anton seconds. Vote is 4 in favor, 1 abstain. Motion passes.
3. The Committee welcomes new alternate members, Dan Shapiro and Geoff Gezik. All in attendance introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their background.

Public Comment

1. David Kunhardt, resident of Piper Shores, inquires about a community solar farm in Scarborough and notes the efforts of the Piper Shores Sustainability Collaborative.

Old Business

1. EV Charging Ordinance
 - Jami shares that the Ordinance Committee will review the proposed revisions to the EV Charging Ordinance at their 3/12/25 meeting. If approved, the Ordinance Committee will then send the revisions to the Town Council.
 - The proposed changes scale back the requirements, so the process should go fairly smoothly.
 - Jami shares that the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is developing a regional EV plan. Scarborough's ordinance is being used as an example for other municipalities who are considering adopting local ordinances. GPCOG has released a [public survey](#) to help determine where public chargers are needed.
 - **ACTION: JAMI will share the link to GPCOG's EV charging survey.**
2. EECBG Program
 - Jami shares that the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program has been paused by the Trump administration. The Town of Scarborough was to be the recipient of a \$74,000 grant, which was going to be used to implement a feasibility study

Engineering & Technical Services

259 US Route One | PO Box 360 | Scarborough, ME 04070 | P: 207.730.4400 | scarboroughmaine.org

for a municipal solar array. With the pausing of the EECBG program, the Town's project is also paused. The Town can explore other opportunities and models for a municipal solar array as staff capacity allows.

New Business

1. Select Chair and Vice-Chair

- Patrice nominates Deb as Chair. Ron seconds. Vote is 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passes.
- Deb nominates Lydia as Vice-Chair. Patrice seconds. Vote is 5 in favor. Motion passes.

2. 2025 Priorities

- The Committee reviews the Town Council's 2025 goals, which were included with their agenda.
- One of the Council's goals is to establish a Sustainability Reserve Account.
 - Jami provides background on the Sustainability Committee's work to establish an account dedicated to energy efficiency and sustainability projects, which was a task in the Town's 2017 Energy and Sustainability Plan.
 - At the Finance Committee's January meeting, they recommended a Sustainability Reserve Account be established and funded with 50% of the excess revenues from electrical permit fees annually and funds collected from the EV charging fee in lieu. The Committee also recommended "seeding" the account with an initial \$25,000.
 - The Town Council will consider a resolution to establish the Sustainability Reserve Account at their 3/5 meeting. The proposed initial investment of \$25,000 will be considered as part of the FY26 municipal budget process.
 - Deb notes the Committee should recommend additional investment into the Reserve Account at the completion of any efficiency project that results in savings to the Town.
- Jami notes that the Sustainability Committee's primary focus in 2025 will be developing a Climate Action Plan. Smaller, discrete initiatives may also be able to be done. Committee members are also welcome to take on additional tasks.
- Deb notes the Committee's meeting minutes has a list of potential future projects that the Committee has generated over the past several years.
- Patrice asks about addressing pesticide use. Jami explains that the Conservation Commission has been exploring this effort. There has not been support on the Town Council to establish an ordinance, so more education is needed to increase community support and support at the Council level.
- The Committee discusses additional efforts to add to the list of future projects:
 - Incremental fees for additional trash bins in an effort to reduce the amount of trash people throw away
 - 10-year cost-benefit analysis for purchases, rather than a standard 3-year analysis
 - Incorporate energy efficiency into the new school building project
 - Sustainability Committee webpage update to include relevant resources for residents and businesses
- Anton reminds the Committee that any efforts pursued need to benefit the residents of Scarborough.
- **ACTION: DEB will send the list of potential projects to the Committee and ask members to rank them to help determine the Committee's 2025 priorities.**

Updates

1. Town Council

- Bill shares he has never been prouder of a Town Council action as when the Council passed the wetlands setback requirements.

- Bill has an upcoming Councilor Corner article due, and he'd like to focus on a sustainability-related topic. He welcomes the Committee's input.
- 2. Planning Board
 - The Downs recently presented their sketch plan for Market Basket and the surrounding area.
- 3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission has not met yet in 2025. They had been focused on the wetlands setback up until this point. Their focus will now turn to tree protection and working toward a Tree City USA designation.
- 4. Transportation Committee
 - The Town's [Transportation Assessment](#) is wrapping up. They will soon start working on the Town's Complete Streets toolbox.
- 5. Open Space Plan
 - A Town Council workshop on the Open Space Plan is scheduled for 3/5/25. The Plan should be complete this spring.
- 6. Vulnerability Assessment
 - The StoryMap that is being developed as part of the Vulnerability Assessment will be available to the public soon. It's currently going through internal review by staff and members of working group.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2025 at 8:00 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/food waste
- Tree preservation ordinance
- Swap shop
- Energy stretch code
- Incremental fees for trash bins
- 10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems
- Revamp [Sustainability Committee webpage](#)