

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholtz, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harmon

Attendance – Zoom

Staff: Autumn Speer

[View the recording of the Sustainability Committee's 3/26/25 meeting.](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am.
2. Committee members welcome new associate member, Geoff Gezik.
3. Lydia motions to approve the minutes, Ron seconds. Vote is unanimous. Motion passes.

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. EV Charging Ordinance
 - Jami shares that the Town Council's first reading for the revisions to the EV charging ordinance is scheduled for 4/2/25.
 - If passed at first reading, the ordinance will be referred to the Planning Board for a public hearing and opinion. It will then go back to the Town Council for a public hearing and second reading.
2. 2025 Priorities
 - The Committee discusses the results of the online prioritization process Deb coordinated (attached).
 - The highest ranked topics were community/municipal solar, residential energy efficiency grants, and food waste.
 - Residential grants
 - South Portland used Covid-19 recovery funds to offer small grants to residents to help with purchasing battery lawn equipment, e-bikes, etc. Funding is the limiting factor for this item.

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- Dan notes the Committee should still work on planning a program so it can be implemented when/if funding becomes available.
- The Committee will plan to invite representatives from South Portland to a future meeting to learn more about their program.
- Municipal solar array
 - The Committee is most interested in pursuing a municipal solar array. Dan notes there are several models the Town could consider, including partnering with a third party to develop, own, and operate the array and sell the electricity to the Town. This arrangement would result in very little cost to the Town.
 - Bill will bring the topic of a municipal array to the School Building Committee.
 - The Committee would like to review Town parcels to determine suitability for solar. Jami will provide the Committee with a list of Town parcels. The Committee can use the [Town's webGIS](#) to complete an initial review of potential sites.
 - The Committee would also like to visit the Town's parcel on Rigby Road (map/lot: R078009) to better understand if the parcel is appropriate for solar development.
 - The Committee will dedicate their April meeting to discussing a municipal solar project. The May meeting will likely involve inviting a company like Competitive Energy Services (CES) to provide an overview of the services they could provide to support the Town through a solar development process.
 - Jami notes that the Town would likely need funding to formally engage with a company like CES. This project is not currently in the Town's budget.
 - The newly established Sustainability Reserve Account may be able to provide funding to work with a third party, when the time comes. A proposal for the Town Council will need to be developed. The Town Council will authorize any expenditures from the Sustainability Reserve Account.
 - **ACTIONS:**
 - **JAMI will provide the Committee with a list of Town-owned properties (developed and vacant).**
 - **JAMI will schedule a site visit to the Rigby Road parcel before the next Committee meeting. Committee members will attend if they are available.**
- Food waste
 - Deb provides a summary of the Town's past food waste pilot. Because there was no funding to support the project, the process ended up being confusing and unpopular with residents.
 - The Committee is interested in expanding food waste collection, either by offering more collection locations or by working with Garbage to Gardens to expand curbside collection into Scarborough.
 - The Committee members note that they could reach out to Garbage to Gardens to see if they plan to offer their service in Scarborough.
- Sustainability Committee webpage
 - Updating the [Committee's webpage](#) did not rank among the top priorities, but the Committee feels it is an important that it be updated. There is a lot of out of date information on the site.
 - **ACTIONS:**
 - **LYDIA will start a Google Doc for committee members to add topics, information, and resources they'd like to see included on the website.**
 - **JAMI will make updates to the page as time allows.**
- Recycling information for new residents
 - Deb notes that she'd like to provide recycling information to new residents in Scarborough. People who move into new construction receive a packet of information

from Public Works when they receive their trash and recycling bins. New residents who move into existing houses are left to fend for themselves.

- Jami suggests providing the information on the Town's website and sending welcome postcards to new residents that direct them to the website to find important information.
- **ACTION: JAMI will bring the recycling packet to the Committee's next meeting so they can see the information that is provided with trash and recycling bins.**

Updates

1. Town Council
 - There is no update this meeting.
2. Planning Board
 - The Downs site plan for Market Basket will be taken up in April.
 - The Planning Board will have public hearings for the EV parking ordinance and on an update to the stream protection overlay district.
3. Transportation Committee
 - The Transportation Committee had a presentation from Portland Metro about expanding service in Scarborough. There will be a Town Council workshop on the topic on 4/16/25.
4. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission's first meeting in 2025 is scheduled for 3/26/25.
5. Open Space Plan
 - A Town Council workshop on the Open Space Plan was held on 3/5/25. There are minor revisions that will be made based on the Town Council's feedback. The Plan will be wrapped up this spring.
6. Vulnerability Assessment
 - The Vulnerability Assessment [StoryMap](#) is now available for the public to review. It currently contains Scarborough's flood risk and vulnerabilities. It will be updated later this spring to include adaptation strategies.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 am.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2025 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Revamp [Sustainability Committee webpage](#)
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting/food waste
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Coordination with Scarborough Public Schools
- Municipal building energy audits
- Electric school buses
- Tree preservation ordinance
- Swap shop
- Energy stretch code

- Incremental fees for trash bins
- 10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems

Ranked choice (single-winner and multi-winner)

- 1 - Community Solar/municipal solar array
- 2 - Community Solar/municipal solar array, Residential energy efficiency grants
- 3 - Community Solar/municipal solar array, Residential energy efficiency grants, Composting/food waste
- 4 - Community Solar/municipal solar array, Residential energy efficiency grants, (Composting/food waste & 10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems)

How many ranked it in the Top 5		Points (5 for 1st choice, 4 for 2nd, etc)	
Community Solar/municipal solar array	6	Community Solar/municipal solar array	30
Residential energy efficiency grants	5	Residential energy efficiency grants	19
Composting/food waste	4	Municipal building energy audits	9
10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems	4	10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems	9
Coordination with Scarborough Schools	3	Composting/food waste	8
Municipal building energy audits	3	Incremental fees for trash bins	8
Incremental fees for trash bins	3	Coordination with Scarborough Schools	7
Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands	2	Tree preservation ordinance	5
Tree preservation ordinance	2	Revamp Sustainability Committee webpage	4
Energy stretch code	2	Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands	4
Revamp Sustainability Committee webpage	2	Energy stretch code	0
Electric school buses	0	Electric school buses	0
Swap shop	0	Swap shop	0