

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

September 24, 2025 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee: Anton Bodor, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholz, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harmon

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:01 am.
2. Patrice motions to approve the minutes, Lydia seconds. Vote is unanimous. Motion passes.

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. [LD1870](#) – “An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters”
 - Deb shares that a recent Scarborough High School graduate has offered to coordinate letters from Scarborough students in support of a municipal resolution.
 - Deb also reports that Sen. Brenner and Rep. Warren are strong supporters of the bill. Sen. Brenner’s legislative assistant has offered to coordinate a letter from Scarborough’s full delegation stating their support of a municipal resolution. She asks who the letters should be addressed to.
 - Bill suggests the letters be addressed to the Sustainability Committee, and the Committee can include the letters as an attachment to the resolution request.
 - Jami asks if the Scarborough Town Council’s resolution is needed if the legislative delegation already supports the bill.
 - The resolution will not be brought to the Town Council until after the November election. The Legislature does not reconvene until January, so the bill will not be taken up until after the new year.
 - Lydia asks if there is something the Committee could do to show support, if the Council decides not to consider a resolution. Jami suggests the Committee include information about the bill in the Town’s newsletter.
 - Deb suggests the group review the legislation and the resolutions that have been passed by Yarmouth and Rockland.
 - **ACTIONS:**
 - **Following the election, BILL will bring the topic to the new Town Council chair to determine their interest in a resolution in support of the legislation.**

Engineering & Technical Services

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

- **DEB will follow up with Sen. Brenner's legislative aid about compiling letters to the Sustainability Committee.**
 - **COMMITTEE members will review the legislation and the resolutions passed by Rockland and Yarmouth.**
2. Municipal Solar Array
- Dan provides an update on the Treasury Department's guidance on changes to renewable energy project tax credits.
 - The guidance allows "safe harboring," which will allow existing projects to qualify for previous tax credits. Scarborough is not in a position to benefit from this opportunity.
 - Jami reminds the group that the Town has three more years in its energy supply contract. All of the Town's energy is certified renewable.
 - Dan suggests that the Town could issue a solicitation for an advisor to help guide the Town through a solar project (e.g., consulting on goals, evaluating possible locations, coordinating a future bid process).
 - Jami notes that the Town doesn't typically complete a bid process without the funding to hire one of the firms bidding. It's common for the Town to reach out to companies, provide a general overview of a project, and request a price range for the proposed work. Obtaining rough pricing helps inform budget requests. Companies contacted to provide pricing are not excluded from participating in the formal bidding process.
 - The Finance Committee would be involved in the process to develop a solar project.
3. Climate Action Plan
- Jami shares that [Kim Lundgren Associates](#) was selected as the firm to assist with the Town's Climate Action Plan (CAP). They are working with Bath on their CAP and were part of the Portland and South Portland's One Climate Future plan.
 - KLA focuses on engagement and provides tools beyond development of the plan to help implement the plan once its complete.
 - Initial work includes data gathering and analysis and completing a branding process for the plan.
 - A working group will be formed to help guide the process. The goal is for the group to be made up of a representative and diverse cross section of the community. The group will convene early in the new year. Three working group meetings are planned.
4. Sustainable Scarborough Day
- Jami provides an overview of volunteer needs and notes that morning set-up is the largest need.
 - Jami gives an overview of vendors, activities, layout, etc. for the event.
 - The Committee is encouraged to share event info with their friends, neighbors, and online networks.
 - Dan, Anton, Geoff, and Deb will volunteer to help with set up.
 - **ACTION: JAMI will send volunteer info to the group.**

Updates

1. Town Council
- Bill shares that the South Portland Housing Authority withdrew the application for the Marshview senior housing project and plans to sell the property.
 - The Higgins Beach community expressed concern about the resiliency of the Scarborough Sanitary District's (SSD) infrastructure at a neighborhood meeting on the Vulnerability Assessment that was held in September. Bill suggests that the Committee could reach out to SSD to ask about their vulnerability plans.

- Jami notes that staff have reached out to SSD about the Higgins Beach infrastructure but haven't gotten much information.
 - Patrice shared that Piper Shores is planning to be an emergency shelter for Higgins Beach residents during storm events.
2. Planning Board
 - The Planning Board reviewed the updated MUBEC codes.
 3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission is focusing on the Spurwink Marsh Restoration and Sawyer Street Removal project. There is a public meeting scheduled on 9/24 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.
 - The Town Councils in Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth need to complete a formal process to discontinue the road. The process will likely be scheduled on October and November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

Next Meeting: October 22, 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
- Storm drain stenciling