

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

October 22, 2025 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee (in person): Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholz

Committee (Zoom): Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harmon

Guest: Paul Lyons

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:02 am.
2. Anton motions to approve the minutes, Patrice seconds. Three in favor, one abstain. 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”
 - Jami provides an update from Deb on the status of the letter requested from Scarborough’s legislative delegation. The letter has not been received yet, and Deb will provide it to the group when it is available.
 - Once the new Council is set, Bill will speak to Council Leadership to determine if the Council will consider a resolution in support of the legislation.
 - Anton asks about the status of the bill in the legislative committee.
Post-meeting update: the [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources](#) did not take up the bill last session. Carry over to the next legislative session was approved on 5/19/25.
2. Sustainable Scarborough Day
 - Jami provides an overview of Sustainable Scarborough Day. The number of people in attendance was lower than in the previous two years, but those who did attend provided positive feedback.
 - There were 25 vendors; an EV ride and drive event, including an electric boat; live music; food trucks; and activities.
 - Patrice suggests combining the event with another town or taking a year off. She also notes that there needs to be new groups and activities each year.
 - The committee discusses other outreach activities that may reach more people, such as updating the sustainability page of the Town website or piggybacking on an existing event.

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- Other community events include Summerfest, Concerts in the Park, Scarborough Farmers' Market, Sparkle in the Park (formerly Santa in the Park).
- The Committee needs to identify the messages they think the community needs to hear and design outreach around the topic/message. Patrice suggests reduce, reuse, recycle or induction cooking.
 - Jami suggests the Committee could partner with the Scarborough Public Library to host educational events on topics identified by the Committee.
 - Paul suggests discussing options for engagement opportunities with the Climate Action Plan consultants. Jami notes that a large part of the Climate Action Plan will focus on community engagement and will help identify audiences, messages, and outreach methods.
 - The Committee will revisit the topic in the new year to decide if they will support the event in the future.
3. Municipal Solar Array
- Lydia shares that she spoke with one of her colleagues about the cost to run a solicitation for bids for an advisor. The estimated cost is \$10,000, which would include site identification. The advisor would help manage a second process to select a contractor to install and operate solar arrays on municipal properties.
 - The Town will not release a solicitation without having funding available for the project. For budgeting purposes, the Town will provide a rough scope to vendors/consultants and ask for an estimated cost. The pricing information is used to inform budgets or capital improvement project requests. The companies that provide pricing information are still allowed to bid on projects when the request for bids is released.
 - Municipal solar projects will likely be framed as an economic benefit. Installing arrays on municipal buildings will help stabilize the Town's energy costs for decades.
 - Lydia asks if developers are still interested in solar projects because of the current uncertainty. Dan believes there is. Solar isn't going away, but the development models will have to adapt to the new state and federal rules.
4. Climate Action Plan
- Jami provides an update on the Climate Action Plan process. A working group will be formed to help inform the plan. The working group will meet roughly three times starting in early 2026.
 - A representative from the Sustainability Committee is needed to serve on the working group.
 - Geoff volunteered to participate as a representative from the Sustainability Committee.
 - Data analysis is underway and a branding subcommittee has been formed to create a uniform brand for the plan and sustainability activities overall.

Updates

1. Town Council
 - Bill shares the Vulnerability Assessment was approved by the Town Council.
 - Short-term rentals ordinance did not pass.
 - The Spurwink Marsh Restoration / Sawyer Street Removal project is not moving forward. Cape Elizabeth's Town Council voted against road removal, which forced Scarborough's Council to vote down the project.
2. Planning Board
 - The Planning Board is reviewing two subdivisions, sketch plans, and ordinance revisions.
3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission will discuss goals for 2026.
4. Transportation Committee

- Metro announced that bus service will expand into Scarborough in 2026. More information will be provided to the Sustainability Committee soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Next Meeting: December 3, 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