

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

December 3, 2025 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee (in person): Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Committee (Zoom): Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholtz

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harmon

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:00 am.
2. Lydia motions to approve the minutes, Patrice seconds. Four 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”
 - Deb shares that Scarborough’s full legislative delegation is in full support of LD1870.
 - Bill has not had a chance to speak with the Council about taking up a resolution in support of LD1870.
 - Dan shares that he spoke with Sen. Brenner about Scarborough possibly passing a resolution in support of LD1870. Sen Brenner encourages the Town to pass a resolution because it will show the Legislature that there is local support for the bill. She is willing to speak with the Sustainability Committee about the legislation.
 - Deb notes that a presentation from Sen. Brenner may be useful for the Town Council.
 - Jami offers to pull together a draft resolution and share it with the Committee to review and revise.
 - The Legislature is unlikely to take up LD1870 until February or March.
 - **ACTIONS:**
 - **DEB will follow up with Sen. Brenner’s office.**
 - **BILL will speak with the Town Council about bringing the resolution forward in 2026.**
 - **JAMI will share a draft resolution in Google Docs for the Committee to review and revise.**

Engineering & Technical Services

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

New Business

1. Sustainability Committee Website

- Jami provides a brief update on the Climate Action Plan as part of the website discussion. A new brand for the Climate Action Plan has been developed, and it will carry over into the Town's sustainability work, in general. The brand is "Sustaining Scarborough: Resilient, Responsible, Ready." The campaign name, logo, and tagline will be introduced in the new year. A website for the campaign will also be launched.
- The Committee would like its webpage to include a list of accomplishments, including ordinance updates (e.g., solar and EV charging), LED street lights, solar on municipal buildings, Sustainable Scarborough Day.
- Jami is able to make the updates to the page. She will add high-level information about projects and accomplishments to the page. The Committee is welcome to pull together the information they want included or request edits.
- The Committee would like links to resources, including sustainable lawn care (available through Conservation Commission page); trash, recycling, and food waste (available on Public Works' webpage and through ecomaine); energy efficiency (Efficiency Maine).
- Lydia asks if there is another Committee page they they should look at for ideas. Jami suggests the [Conservation Commission](#) page.
- Deb suggests looking at the sustainability pages in other municipalities.
- **ACTION: JAMI will update the page based on the Committee's feedback and let members know when changes are ready for review.**

2. Portland Metro Expansion

- Jami shares that Metro has announced plans to [expand service into Scarborough](#). There will be a dedicated transit line and on-demand micro-transit. (On-demand micro-transit is currently being piloted in Falmouth. More information is available on [Metro's website](#).)
- There is an [online survey](#) to provide input on Metro's plans.
- Deb notes that there needs to be park and ride facilities associated with some of the stops in Scarborough. In suburban areas, riders are more likely to drive to a bus stop and will need options for parking. Jami encourages Deb and other committee members to provide this feedback through the online survey.
- **ACTION: JAMI will share the link to the online survey to the Committee.**

Updates

1. Town Council

- Bill shares that Corey Fellows is the new Town Council chair.
- Town Council committee assignments will be complete at the 12/3 meeting. The Council will work on goal setting in December and January. He anticipates managing growth will be a top priority.
- The Town Council adopted a tree care ordinance that applies to Town-owned properties and rights-of-way.

2. Planning Board

- The Planning Board is reviewing the Maine Mariners practice facility in The Downs and affordable housing at Dunstan Crossing and Oak Hill.

3. Conservation Commission

- Conservation Commission is discussing goals for 2026.

4. Climate Action Plan

- The baseline greenhouse gas assessment is in progress. An advisory group will be formed and begin meeting in the new year. Geoff is the Sustainability Committee's pre on the advisory group.
- 5. Transportation Committee
 - Transportation Committee is supporting the development of the Town's Complete Streets and Traffic Calming Manual.
- 6. Other
 - Community Outreach
 - Deb notes that the loss of *The Leader* has left a communication hole in Scarborough. She suggests adding information or notices in property tax bills.
 - Jami shares that the Town has a regular insert in the bi-monthly [Scarborough Living](#) magazine. The Town also sends a twice-monthly [e-newsletter](#). Everyone should [subscribe](#) if they haven't already. *The Leader* is now known as [Cape. SoPo. Scarborough NOW](#) and is available online.
 - Deb notes the need for a "welcome to Scarborough" page on the website and a way to direct new residents to the page for information.
 - Ron asks if the Town has thought of creating an app to push information to people. Jami explains that there was an app at one time that focused on trash and recycling. It wasn't well utilized and was quite expensive to maintain, so the Town discontinued it around 2019. A town-specific app would require people downloading and using it, which is another challenge. Right now, the Town relies on its social media accounts to provide quick updates.
 - Deb encourages the Committee to pay attention how they get information from other organizations to help identify ways the Committee can reach residents.
 - *Post-meeting follow-up: Jami touched base with Allison Carrier, the Town's Communications Manager, about some of the items discussed. The Town has started to include information in tax bills as off the fall 2025 bill. There is also a [Welcome to Scarborough](#) page on the website, which includes helpful links for people who are new to town. Some of the linked pages could use some updating, and Allison plans to check in with the respective departments to work on the updates.*
 - School Building Committee
 - With the passing of the school bond, a committee is being formed to guide the design of the primary school and upgrades to existing schools. Sustainability Committee members are encouraged to [apply](#) to serve on the committee to provide expertise on energy efficiency. The Committee will meet at least monthly on Tuesday evenings, and topic-specific sub-committees may form and meet more frequently.
 - **ACTION: JAMI will share the [link to the application](#) with the Committee.**
 - Sustainability Reserve Account
 - Due to site constraints, a new veterinary office has opted to pay the \$8,000 fee in-lieu instead of installing EV charging infrastructure. The funds will go into the Sustainability Reserve Account.
 - The Committee may want to consider a request to the Town Council to use some of the funds to hire an advisor for the municipal solar project that have been discussed over the past several meetings.
 - Dan shares that the main driver of solar projects will be state regulations. Until there is a clearer picture of how Maine's regulations will change, smaller-scale municipal projects are not likely to be viable. Dan will continue to monitor the situation.
 - The Committee wishes to continue to evaluate sites for solar installation to be prepared to move forward with projects once changes in regulations are known.

- *Post-meeting follow-up : [LD32, An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing](#), was held over from the Legislature's first session. There is a work session scheduled on 1/6/26.*
- Sustainable Scarborough Day
 - The Committee will need to revisit plans for Sustainable Scarborough Day in January.
 - Members discussed working with schools to help increase attendance. The school department has been difficult to work with. It may be easier and more effective to reach out to individual schools or teachers.
 - Bill suggests engaging with the School Board to introduce the Committee and talk about what it is working on.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2026 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- Communications, outreach, and engagement
- 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