

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

March 25, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee (in person): Ron Allen, Geoff Gezik, Patrice Kastenzholz, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Committee (Zoom): Anton Bodor

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harmon

Guests: David Kunhardt, resident; Elsa Rowe, Scarborough Public Library

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:03 am.
2. Patrice motions to approve the minutes, Ron seconds. Rollcall vote was unanimous. Motion passes.
3. Deb requests to take up new business first.

Public Comment

1. David Kunhardt provides an update about LD2112, An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity.

Old Business

1. [LD1870](#) – “An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters”
 - Jami provides an update on the bill status. The language was amended to be a study on the economic impact of fossil fuel emissions on Maine communities.
 - The Committee discusses the need to bring the resolution to the Council, given the change in scope.
 - *Anton motions to withdraw the Town Council resolution. Patrice seconds. Rollcall vote was unanimous. Motion passes.*

New Business

1. Outreach & engagement opportunities with the Scarborough Public Library (SPL)
 - Elsa Rowe, SPL Community Engagement Manager, to discuss partnership opportunities.
 - Elsa provides information about a number of upcoming programs at SPL that relate to the Committee’s charge:
 - Clothing swaps, kids (5/2), adults (5/9) – both events are 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- Any remaining items are donated to Blue Point Church, which will then sell the items in their thrift shop or provide them to other organizations.

Engineering & Technical Services

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- Junk in the Trunk – 6/27, 9:00 am – noon
Pop-up Swap Shop event where people bring items they no longer want and people take them for free. At the end of the event, the remaining items leave with those who brought them. Elsa is open to plan Junk in the Trunk events each month in the summer.
- Repair Café – date TBD
Patrice has several connections and will help Elsa coordinate the event.
- Induction cooking demonstrations
Elsa shares that SPL is raising money for a cooking Charlie Cart to be able to do cooking demonstrations.
- Committee members are encouraged to attend the events to share information about the Committee's work. Committee members are also welcome to introduce the speakers.
- Jami is pulling together display materials for the Sustaining Scarborough Climate Action Plan that can be set up during the events.
- Elsa is willing to help coordinate the Halloween costume swap at Sustainable Scarborough Day.
- Elsa is planning sustainability-related programs in the week leading up to Sustainable Scarborough Day. Some ideas for speakers and talks include:
 - Keith Carson, Maine Conservation Voters Science Communication Director and former meteorologist on Newscenter Maine (ch. 6) to talk about climate change.
 - Beverly Johnson, Bates College professor who specializes in blue carbon (carbon sequestration in marshes).
 - Maine Conservation Voters utility bill education program.
- The Committee is encouraged to share ideas for speakers and talks as well.
- SPL will host an interactive display for the Sustaining Scarborough Plan April 13 – 24. She encourages interactive displays to get kids' opinions.
- Patrice offers to hold an art session using found or upcycled items.
- Patrice is part of the Wild Seed Project and is willing to do a program about native plants in the fall.
- SPL will be added to the updates section of the Committee's agenda.

Updates

1. Town Council
 - Bill shares that the Town Council recently updated the Cannabis Control Ordinance and is considering a Short Term Rental Ordinance.
2. Planning Board
 - Autumn is working on reorganizing up the Town's Zoning Ordinance.
 - The Planning Board is considering a workforce housing development off Broadturn Road, a conservation subdivision on Elmwood Ave, and a mixed-use development on Haigis Parkway.
3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission continues to support the development of a Low Impact Development ordinance.
4. Transportation Committee
 - Metro has been working with the Town to expand service into Scarborough. They shared the proposed fixed route and micro-transit zone with the Transportation Committee on 3/24. There is a Town Council workshop scheduled on 4/1.
 - MaineDOT is proposing a pilot closure of a northbound lane on Rt. 1 across the Marsh this summer. The closure is proposed as part of the Rt. 1 resiliency project to add a multi-use path for bikes and pedestrians across the Marsh. A workshop with MaineDOT is scheduled on 5/6.

5. Climate Action Plan

- The Climate Action Plan Advisory Group will meet again on 4/14 to review actions that will be considered for inclusion in the Plan. The Sustainability Committee's April meeting will focus on reviewing the proposed actions.
- The project website is SustainingScarborough.org. **There is a quick poll currently available on the site. Please take the poll and encourage your networks to do so as well.** The link is also shared on the Town's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.

Next Meeting: April 22 (Earth Day!), 2026 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- School Building Process
- 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