

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

May 27, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Attendance

Committee (in person): Anton Bodor, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Patrice Kastenholz, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch, Helen Harman, Erin Moriarty

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:05 am.
2. Lydia motions to approve the minutes, Patrice seconds. Vote was unanimous. Motion passes.

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. Metro Transit Pilot
 - The Town Council voted to approve Metro's expansion in Scarborough. Service will begin late summer/early fall.
 - Metro will implement a communications plan to promote the new service.
 - The Town Council was challenged to use the transit service. The Committee will consider arriving at a future meeting via transit.
2. Climate Action Plan
 - The third advisory group meeting is scheduled in June. The meeting will focus on developing blueprints for five priority actions:
 - Launch an energy coach program to train volunteers to help residents understand energy performance and available reduction opportunities.
 - Incorporate lifecycle costs into decision making for energy-related projects at municipal facilities.
 - Adopt a zero emissions policy to guide the transition of the municipal fleet and equipment.
 - Launch a public education campaign to increase the number of residents who compost.
 - Develop a climate vulnerability response framework to guide decision making on how best to protect municipal assets.
 - Many public engagement events are planned for the summer:

Engineering & Technical Services

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- Partnering with Scarborough Public Library on Junk in the Trunk (6/27 & 7/18); Repair café (8/18, 9/26); kids clothing swap (8/26); teen/adult clothing swap (10/17)
- Concerts in the Park (6/25, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30)

New Business

1. Data Centers

- A Planning Board application was submitted in April to develop a data center off Holmes Road. The application was found to be incomplete and was not accepted.
- The Town Council passed the first reading of a moratorium on data center development in Scarborough. There is a public hearing, second reading, and vote scheduled on 6/3. The moratorium will be retroactive to 4/1/26 and will last 6 months and could be extended for another 6 months.
- Data centers are a new use in Scarborough, so the moratorium is intended to give the Town time to understand the use, review zoning and performance standards, and determine if ordinance updates are needed or if this use should be allowed.
- The State has established a taskforce to study data centers. Scarborough's process will likely move faster than the State's taskforce effort.
- The Committee discusses the need to review Scarborough's overall zoning. Helen notes that the Long Range Planning Committee is working through this process.
- Bill notes that the Council is largely in favor of a moratorium, but they need additional education and resources to fully understand the issue and risks.
- The Committee would like to invite an outside expert to the June meeting to provide information on data centers.
- Deb requests information on the Town's industrial and light industrial zones.
- The Sustainability Committee would like to send a memo to the Town Council in support of the moratorium and offer the Committee's services to provide recommendations related to data centers.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - **JAMI will draft a memo for review by Deb and Lydia. Once finalized, DEB will send it to the Town Council.**
 - **JAMI will reach out to Maine Conservation Voters to ask about available resources and experts who may be able to attend the June meeting.**

Updates

1. Town Council

- The municipal budget was approved at the Council's 5/20 meeting.

2. Route 1 lane closure pilot

- The Town Council decided not to support the proposed lane closure pilot on Rt. 1.
- The Committee expresses frustration with the process. The Council made the decision before taking any public comment.
- Deb shares that she and the chair of the Transportation Committee hope to meet soon to coordinate response to the Town Council's process and to discuss future opportunities to collaborate.
- Deb asks if a lane could be closed in the future to accommodate bike/ped facilities, if the Community supports it. The Town would need to ask DOT if future lane conversion is possible.

3. Planning Board

- Planning Board reviewed submittals related to The Downs' Town Center and Town Center Residential areas.

- Walmart is modifying their parking lot layout.
 - New pickle ball courts will replace the skate park. A new skate park will be constructed near the High School and Wentworth School.
4. Transportation Committee
- The Committee recently discussed bike and ped opportunities in Pine Point.
5. Conservation Commission
- Conservation Commission continues to support the development of a Low Impact Development ordinance. They will also review a draft tree clearing and site disturbance ordinance at their next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 am.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2026 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- School Building Process
- Communications, outreach, and engagement
- Community solar / municipal solar array
- 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