TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

September 23, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance
Committee (in person): Ron Allen, Lydia Jopp, Deb McDonough
Committee (Zoom): Dan Shapiro
Town Council: Bill Donovan
Staff: Jami Fitch, Autumn Speer
Guests: Paul Lyon

Meeting recording

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. Data Centers
   - Autumn provides an update on the process to update the Town's Zoning Ordinance to effectively dan data centers.
   - The Town Council had the first reading of the Zoning Ordinance update on 9/16. The Council approved the first reading and referred the ordinance change to the Planning Board.
   - The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on 10/19, and the Town Council will hold a public hearing on 10/21. The Council's second reading and vote will be on 11/4.
   - Deb notes that the Committee's memo recommending a data center ban was sent to the Council.
2. Greater Portland Metro transit pilot
   - Microtransit is now available in Scarborough. It's in a "soft launch" period so they're still working out kinks.
   - The fixed route will launch on 10/4.
   - There is a launch event on 10/2 at 9:00 am at Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.
   - The bus and microtransit services are free through the end of October to encourage people to ride.
   - Deb shares that she had issues using Metro's app to request a microtransit ride. Jami shares that Metro recently launched a new app, so anyone having issues with the app should try reinstalling.
     Apple app | Android app

- The Committee suggests opportunities to help advertise the service:
  - Send notice to the high school
  - Post flyers in local establishments like coffee shops
  - Town social media
- Metro is seeking feedback from the public. Emails can be sent to info@gpmetro.org.
- **ACTION: JAMI will re-send the information about the Metro launch event.**

New Business

1. Climate Action Plan
   - The draft *Sustaining Scarborough* climate action plan is available for review. Public comment is also being accepted.
   - A Town Council workshop about the plan is scheduled on 10/21 at 6:00 pm.
   - Paul asks if there is a plan to have members of the Advisory Group serve as an advisory board to support implementation of the plan. He's seen the model work effectively in other municipalities.
   - Jami walks the Committee through the goals, actions, and strategies in the *Sustaining Scarborough* climate action plan.
   - Comments on the plan:
     - Add GHG emissions per capita
     - Include smaller trash bins as a way to reduce solid waste
     - Consider improved cell service as part of emergency communications plan
   - Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings, Waste Management, and Transpiration/EV charging as being the primary sections related to the Sustainability Committee. They may have reduced or support roles in other actions.
   - The Committee expresses interest in focusing on the goals related to renewable energy.
   - The Committee will spend time at the October meeting to identify one or two actions they would like to focus on initially.
   - Autumn notes that prioritizing actions and strategies will be helpful leading into the Town Council's annual goal-setting process.

Updates

1. Town Council
   - No update this month.
2. Planning Board
   - School projects are going to Planning Board for advisory opinions.
3. Transportation Committee
   - Transportation Committee is reviewing MaineDOT's options for the Portland West Project (formerly the Gorham Connector).
4. Conservation Commission
   - Conservation Commission is developing a stewardship guide for residents.
5. Scarborough Public Library
   - Upcoming community events:
     - Keith Carson speaking about how to talk about climate change – 9/28
     - Halloween costume swap – 10/3
     - Adult and teen clothing swap – 10/17
     - Several sustainability/conservation talks are also planned through early October

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

Next Meeting: October 28, 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