

Sharon Energy and Environment Commission Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom

Present: Lyn Mattoon, Chair. Jan Dudek (by phone), Katy Kinsolving, Roger Liddell, Oscar Martinez, Michael Nadeau, Doug Rick

1. The amended minutes of the January SEEC meeting will be approved at the next SEEC meeting.
2. **CT GREEN BANK SOLAR MAP PROJECT**
Members reviewed the visit by Green Bank representative to Sharon Center School. It appears that the roof would be a risky site for solar panels, so the site suggested was the current soccer field. This option was thought to be a non-starter. Members discussed using microinverters which would allow the installation to be at a greater distance from the school. Microinverters are more expensive initially but make solar panels more efficient over the long run. There was also a discussion about the desirability of installing a carport with solar panels in the school parking lot. SEEC needs to return to Green Bank to discuss other options.
3. **ENERGY EFFICIENT HVAC AT SHARON CENTER SCHOOL**
SEEC members discussed the issue of proposed upgrade of HVAC at Sharon Center School. The school is not installing new HVAC this year, but perhaps in 2022. We need to go back to Sam Herrick to review the current plan, which is four years old, and consider more efficient options.
4. **SEEC SUBMISSIONS TO LAKEVILLE JOURNAL**
See Lakeville Journal, February 25 "SEEC-ing Solutions" column. Lyn asked SEEC members for feedback on today's ad. Lyn and Katy will create a topic schedule and monitor SEEC advertisements going forward. The proposed topic for the April: choose to get your electricity from green suppliers. However, we may use the ad space to announce the trash clean up day.
5. **CT LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO SEEC MISSION**
Lyn reminded members to follow the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters website for a legislative watch list of issues pertaining to state-wide energy and environment issues. There may be a bill requiring transfer stations to do composting.
6. **UPDATE ON POLLINATOR PATHWAY**
SEEC approved a motion for the Town of Sharon to join Pollinator Pathway. A formal request had been made by SEEC member Michael Nadeau to join the Pollinator Pathway, and the request was accepted. Our member partners are Sharon Audubon and Sharon Land Trust. SEEC will also encourage multiple private properties in Sharon to join the Pollinator Pathway. The NWCT Conservation District and White Memorial district have pledged support. Mr.

Nadeau will offer a free consultation about controlling invasive plants and planting natives. There was a discussion of how to get Town of Sharon on the Pollinator Pathway website and of working with CT members of the Millbrook Garden Club. Jan Dudeck will work with Michael Nadeau to create a clearing house for information and residential sites for Pollinator Pathway.

- 7. **Educational mission.** SEEC members discussed holding workshops and talks to educate the public about energy/ efficiency and other topics relating to creating a resilient and vibrant local environment. For example, Katy is giving a Zoom talk at the Sharon Library on Food, Climate and the Path Forward on Earth Day, April 22.
- 8. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katy Kinsolving, SEEC Secretary

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