

**Minutes of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC) Meeting
March 25, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom**

In attendance: Lyn Mattoon, Doug Rick, Roger Liddell, Oscar Martinez, Jan Dudek, Katy Kinsolving, Michael Nadeau (joined late). Special Guest: Selectman Dale Jones.

1. Roger Liddell moved to approve the amended minutes of the January 28, 2021 and February 25, 2021 meetings. Jan Dudek seconded, all voted to approve.
2. **Consider joining Sustainable Connecticut.**
Commission members and Sharon Selectmen were asked to check website: <https://sustainablect.org> with a view to Sharon joining this non-profit organization that measures towns in CT according to various beneficial criteria. Once certified, Sustainable Connecticut towns and municipalities are able to apply for loans and grants for various projects. Selectman Dale Jones said "It is a laudable organization, with great goals but requires time to apply."
 - SEEC decided not to pursue application at this time.
3. **Review Solar MAP situation at Sharon Center School.**
Doug had a zoom meeting with Emily and Mr. Sabine the other day that went well.
 - Parking lot is unacceptable sight for solar array, because Eversource owns a right of way where the phone lines come in that would preclude that portion of the site and the other portion of the parking lot is too curved to make it work.
 - Standing seam roof option: Originally told roof was not appropriate for use with solar. It appears that there is NO structural issue with the building. The company that installed the roof is indicating that it would void the warranty if anything is put on the roof. Stan is looking into this in more detail. Could do both a ground mount and roof mount.
 - Exercise trail: Another option is to put the array on the town exercise trail which has been neglected and has never been continuously used. The fitness trail goes around the perimeter, so using it for some of the ground mount solar system wouldn't necessarily preclude original use, though connection to school would be long.
 - CT MAP folks are very interested in trying to make it work for town of Sharon. Doug is trying to push ahead as the auction is July 1, 2021. Dale to ask for plans regarding roof for Green Bank. This is last year of MAP.
4. **New HVAC and Heat pumps at Sharon Center School**
Lyn explained to Selectman Dale Jones that we are looking at the school's proposed new HVAC system with the idea of installing an air source heat pump mini-split system which would reduce reliance on fossil fuels and would rely on

electricity (provided by solar!) to heat and cool the building. These systems are much more energy efficient.

Dale agreed in principle: Why replace something that is outdated with something else outdated, when there is something dramatically more efficient? Dale asked if we had met with the school building committee. SEEC members have not met with them recently. Discussion on how to move on with helping the building committee source an energy efficient heating /cooling system at school.

SEEC next step: Contact the Sharon Center School building committee.

5. **Lakeville Journal SEEC'ing Solutions Ads:** Discussed SEEC line-up of and cost of submissions to Lakeville Journal. (See Lakeville Journal, February 25 "SEECing Solutions" column). Green box for this would be an additional \$99. Everyone agreed to contribute extra money to fund the additional cost of the colorized column for April announcement of Picking Up Trash Day. Contributions can be sent to Lyn.
 - SEEC'ing solutions April: Katy's Talk on Food and Climate the Path Forward
 - May will feature Pollinator Pathway
6. **Plan for pick up trash event,** April 17, 2021, meeting outside Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. Rain Date: April 18, 2021.
7. **Pollinator Pathway:** Mike, Jan and Katy are working on the continued process of applying for Sharon to join the pollinator pathway. Katy is handling the e-filing. Mike has drafted a description of Sharon's pollinator pathway (attached). Katy has contacted Sharon Land Trust and Sharon Audubon to see if they would agree to allowing Sharon to use their website links and social media on the application. Sharon Land Trust has indicated that some of the land it owns is under the control of farmers and that pesticides and herbicides are still in use there. Those lands cannot be included in the description of the pathway. Katy has yet to hear from Sharon Audubon. (Post meeting update: Sharon Audubon has agreed to let SEEC link to its website/ social media for this project.) Jan will be contacting residents interested in the project.
8. There being no new business, Mike proposed that the meeting be adjourned. Jan Dudek seconded. All voted in accord.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Kinsolving