

Sustainability Commissions minutes

present: Wendy, Bev, Jeff, Will, Brad, Max, Kiara, Joie (virtual)

update from BSCAT:

- discussion about vernal pools in Clifford Park
- BSCAT wants to improve their familiarity with Sustainability Commission projects, and would like to expand their relationship/help with outreach
- Interest in facilitating collaboration with neighboring towns

Staff updates:

- Brad wants to invite Roby Fecteau in the next month to talk about implementation of building stretch codes
- David Galbraith wants to come speak about transit-oriented development and affordable housing
- The Solar Ordinance is going to Planing Board after suggestions from Conservation Commission
 - Brad will send a copy of the amended ordinance to Commission members

Monarch pollinator pledge:

- mayor signs it every year
- Wendy thought this goes in hand with the landscaping ordinance ideas being proposed
- Max suggested we could promote No Mow May as outreach.
 - Flyers at Pollinator Festival table
 - Social media posts

EV ordinance

- Will summarized the draft ordinance:
 - Max asked why level 2 chargers were required in single-family homes, when the definitions section of the ordinance says level 1 is typical for them
 - Joie proposed to amend the ordinance to say single-family homes would have to at least support a level 1 charger.
 - Will argued that level one chargers take a long time to fill up a battery (sometimes days)

- The commission decided to keep the requirement for single family homes at level 2 at this time
- The commission discussed whether they should lower the threshold of EV charger requirements to below 10 parking spaces
 - Max argued we should look at the cumulative effects of the standards the commission will implement, and how that will affect construction and rents
 - Brad will look into what other municipalities set as a threshold
- Joie suggested the ordinance would trigger an additional tier of installation requirement at a certain year or when a certain percent of vehicles are electric
- The Commission will review the ordinance and propose line edits for next meeting
 - Brad will look into what other municipalities set as a threshold to require chargers in parking areas
 - Brad will try to find a cost estimate breakdown between level 1 and level 2 chargers

Work plan updates

- Kiara reached out to the Town of Falmouth about their solar energy project, reached out to their Sustainability Coordinator
- Bev found two Project Canopy grants at the state, between \$15,000 - \$20,000
 - If federal grant is still intact this year, it could be substantially larger (up to \$200,000) but there are a lot of requirements and the application is due in May
 - This would require a new committee (called a “tree board”) be established
 - Max and Kiara expressed concern about the commissions capacity to apply for a grant in only a few months, and also fund an entirely new committee

Adjourned 6:54 pm

moved by bev

seconded by max

unanimous