



MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, at 3:45pm
Newton Free Library - 3rd floor
(330 Homer Street, Newton)

Attendance: Marcia Cooper, Joana Canedo, Margaret Ford, Heather Tausig, Heather Friedman, Allison Kelley, Julie Winsett, Audrey Kissin, Kate Esbenshade, Arshia Verma, Andy Gluck, Becka Smillie, Anndy Dannenberg, Waneta Trabert, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Erica Braman, Cindy Mapes

1. Welcome and introductions (5 min)

2. Schools updates (10 min)

Pierce. Becka Smillie leads the Green Team. It's open to 4th and 5th grade students. Around 45 kids showed interest this year. Meetings happen during lunch. She is looking for activities and videos. It was suggested that maybe [Students for a Greener World](#) has or wants to create some resources. There are other resources available through [Mass DEP](#).

CASC. There are opportunities to use the [Newton CASC](#) program to bring environmental subjects to schools. [Cabot brought Eric Olson: The Canopy Guy last year.](#)

3. Other updates (10 min)

a. **Safe Routes to School** - Jenn Martin is leading the [Newton Task Force](#) this year. She could not make it to this meeting but sent a note: "The first PTO Council Board meeting is in mid-October. I'll touch base then to see what schools you still need reps from and try to get Green Newton on the PTO Council agenda for some point during the year." First meeting of the Task Force is Friday, 09/13, at the Waban Library. Joana will attend as School Connections Liaison.

Joana will update the GNSC website with information about how to [order anti-idling signs](#) for each school. Schools need to have a Green Team registered with MassDEP in order to make a request.

NPS is putting some signs in the blue zones but that are additional to the one that can be ordered from MassDEP.

b. Fall forum on climate change with speakers at NNHS & NSHS

Marcia is working with the sustainability teachers at Newton South and Newton North on identifying speakers and panels. There will be some emphasis on technology and renewable energy - basic knowledge that students need to have and bring home. Speaker suggestions should be sent to Marcia: marcia@greennewton.org

c. Solar Canopies and roofs + Bike Racks

Liam Hurley presented information on this at the school committee meeting last week - see table and summary below and more information here: [Facilities Memo](#). Bike racks have been installed in 12 schools.

d. There is a [Comment Form](#) for the food service advisory group (SFAG). We have heard that about a third of the comments coming in have to deal with environmental issues/sustainability.



- e. School Sustainability Working Group (SSWG) is a group created in June 19. GNSC is a member with NPS, DPW and other City staff. - [Purpose and Goals](#) . The group is listed as one of the [Systemwide Goals 2019-20 for NPS](#). This is the first time sustainability appears as a goal for the district. Thank you for all your efforts to make this happen.

Targeted Action Steps	Anticipated Outcomes
Initiate Development of School Sustainability Working Group (SSWG) with the purpose to promote and increase sustainable practices within the Newton Public Schools (NPS) with an initial emphasis on improving waste diversion efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review SSWG goals and objectives with School Committee. Development of website section to highlight our mission and goals. Implement textile recycling bins at each school where feasible.

4. School Committee Election

There are a few suggestions: 1) invite school committee candidates to attend our next meeting and provide them with a few topic areas or questions to address their track record and priorities and what they see happening in the schools. 2) invite people in the public to a forum with the candidates to answer questions but low turnout expected. 3) Just send questions and publish the answers in the website.

We will develop together questions and invitations for candidates to come to our next meeting on 10/10.

- a. Who are the [10 candidates \(about the elections\)](#)
- b. [Questions - second draft](#) - please contribute with ideas.

5. Global Climate Strike - Friday, 9/20

The NNHS Climate Advocacy Club organized a student march to Newton City Hall at 8am, where they are meeting with Andrea Downs and other City Council members. They will go to Boston by T after that. Newton South students are also planning to attend the strike. Anyone can join to make signs at Marcia’s house on Thursday afternoon from 330 to 6. Community chalk events have been happening.

6. Green Expo - October 20 @ 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (10 min)

Expo needs volunteers. Sam runs the environment club at South. Audrey will talk to Sam.

- a. [Sign up to volunteer](#)

7. New projects / ideas (15 min)

- a. High School student intern/volunteer to write posts about NPS sustainability, such as: new bike racks installed, solar panels installation this year, why we want recycle bins at schools...

North sustainability classes have a community service requirement of students, three hours every term. Usually this has been to do Tree Conservancy plantings or invasive species pulls but new ideas include distribution of newton power choice door hangers, 2000 left. Contributing to GNSC can be another option. Also to manage/ help with the social media channels which need content to the younger audience / students.



- b. Mothers Out Front have a training/presentation : [Use Less, Green the Rest](#) . They are trying to find groups to share for the presentation. Some ideas include school green teams, after school programs or PTO presentations. More thought is needed to edit/adapt the presentation to the appropriate audiences.
- c. Quiz about sustainable actions/habits. Suggestion: use the Use [Recycle Right Newton](#) - Newton's app to keep you up to date on trash day delays due to holidays or weather events. It has a game that could be fun to reproduce in the GNCS page.
- d. [STEMWeekChallenge.org](#): ZERO Waste design challenge for all K-12 schools in MA, with free curriculum and training. Please share the information.

Coming up:

- Students for a Greener World: September 16 @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm, at the Newton Free Library
- School Connections: October 10 @ 3:45pm - 5:00pm, at the Newton Free Library
- [America Recycles Day](#) - Nov 15

Information about Solar Canopies and roofs + Bike Racks at schools:

From the [Facilities Memo](#) presented to the SC on 09/04/19.

"Planning has been underway for Phase 3 of the solar projects and some timelines have changed for installation. Every effort will be made to cause the least disruption as possible and the projects will be staged to minimized impact to staff and neighborhoods" See tables below.

Ameresco is scheduling roof top solar projects beginning the third week of October at: **Zervas** Elementary School, **FA Day**, and the **Ed Center**. These projects will take 4 to 6 weeks. There will be no disruption of parking. Materials will be delivered and craned onto the roof over the weekend so as not to disrupt school operations.

Macquarie rooftop projects are not yet scheduled and are pending utility and State approvals. Their projects include roofs at **Angier, Cabot, Carr, and Williams**. "

"Numerous bike racks at the following schools have been installed, and bike shelters at both high schools are planned for this fall. The schools include: Underwood, Franklin, Horace Mann, Ward, Countryside, Burr, Bowen, Oak Hill, Day, and Bigelow. Thanks to the efforts of Nicole Freedman and Nina Wang with the City in this process."



Macquarie Projects				
Parking Lot Location	Confirmed Alternative Parking Spaces Needed	Confirmed Number of Weeks*	Estimated Construction Window	Alternative Parking
Mason Rice School, 149 Pleasant St	28	6*	11/4/2019-12/16/2019	Tyler Terrace will be used. Police will issue temporary parking permits.
Behind Brown Middle School, Littlefield Road	20	4	Spring-Summer 2020	Wheeler Road will be used for alternative parking for Spring construction.
Brown Middle School, Wheeler Road	41	11	Spring-Summer 2020	Construction will be done in the Summer
Oak Hill Middle School	20	9	Spring-Summer 2020	of 2020 when we will not need alternative parking.
Memorial Spaulding School,	16	7	10/28/2019-12/16/2019	Temple Beth will provide parking during this period.
Ed Center, 100 Walnut St./Crafts St.	29	9	10/14/2019 - 12/16/2019	There is sufficient parking on site. No offsite parking will be needed for construction.
Pleasant St. parking lot	38	5*	10/7/2019-11/11/2019	On street parking in the area will be used.
Ameresco Projects				
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL CANOPIES				
Foundation Construction Phase Only			Construction Schedule	Alternative Parking
North High School, Walnut St.	44	1	April 18, 2020 - April 26, 2020 (this week is Spring break)	We don't expect to need alternative parking as this will be done during spring break.
North High School, Lowell Ave.	26	3	April 18, 2020 - May 9, 2020 (the first week is Spring break)	Police Dept. will issue temporary parking permits for parking on City streets. This will be needed for no more than two weeks.
Erection of canopies will be done during the summer				
North High School, Walnut St.	44	9	June 26, 2020 - August 31, 2020	We don't expect to need alternative parking as this will be done in the summer of 2020.



North High School, Lowell Ave.	130	9	June 26, 2020 - August 31, 2020	We don't expect to need alternative parking as this will be done in the summer of 2020.
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