

NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

POLLINATOR SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENDA JANUARY 16, 2026

8:00 am – 9:00 am

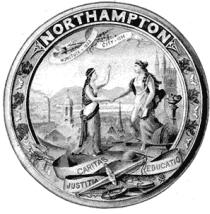
Location: Woodstar Cafe, 60 Masonic St. Northampton

Staff Contact: Ben Weil, Director of Climate Action and Project Administration
Carolyn Misch, Director Office of Planning & Sustainability

Agenda:

- Attending: Rich P. Angie G. Review and approve previous meeting minutes (Sept 12 2025)
 - Approved by attending: Angie Gregory, Rich Parasiliti
- NHS ENV club pollinator garden expansion plans
 - Styrofoam collection in Jan raised the club \$990- awareness of the scattering of styrofoam crumbs when breaking down
 - Connecting to JFK & Tree Northampton
 - Age spread is nice and working to expand pollinator gardens alongside tree planting
 - JFK planting is happening in April (likely the Sat after Friday spring vacation), it's the rotary club annual day of service. Could be multiple places.
 - Thinking beyond schools like community centers or synagogues/churches/libraries
 - If private property and 20' back (w/in the public Right of Way) the city would cover the cost of the tree. Set back plantings are ideal because the soil is better than along the sidewalk area/tree belt. Volunteer with Tree Northampton (Christina) has a list of ideal locations. Door-to-door solicitation (grassroots outreach) can be highly successful.
 - Capacity to do the planting is run by volunteers
 - Needing to ensure that care plan and capacity to care is also there. Balancing the new plantings with maintenance care as well. Watering is a big need.

Voting Members: Angie Gregory • Richard Parasiliti



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- Pollinator plantings go outside the tree root zone area/mulch to ensure that there is enough water for the trees to avoid competition.
- Commissioners are special employees and can drive
 - Support from Gardening for the Future for any new site establishment
 - Next steps
 - Focus on maintenance and outreach
 - Signage?
 - Presentations?
 - Manuals?- examples of other communities
 - Connecting with other volunteer groups (tree northampton)
- Continued discussion of subcommittee function and focus (resident guide, city-owned property, etc)
 - Supporting compost
- Other business
- Next meeting schedule
 - Mid-Feb or early March ideally. Considering meeting at the HS to engage more members of the club. Typically meet Thursdays before school
 - Next meeting: Friday Feb 27th at NHS 8am

****Meeting Agenda Subject to Change****

Status Report (e.g. from a NESC member who has been doing some research, or from a working group) – no decision or action needed, this would just be an update to the NESC for their information and for the record (via minutes)

Decision needed – would culminate in a motion

Action needed – would culminate in an assignment to one or more NESC members

Feedback needed – a member or working group needs informal direction from the NESC

NESC administrative – general discussion on NESC plans, tasks, etc that are not ready for decision or action, but that could lead to future decisions, actions

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