

The November 28, 2017, meeting opened at 4:04.

Present were Juliette Haas, Susan Bachelder, Corinna Barnard, and Pat Konecky.

Minutes of the 10/31/17 meeting were approved.

Berkshire Edge articles: Corinna reported that the next submission in mid-January will be Juliette's article on "wishful" recycling. After that will be a piece by Emily on plastic film recycling, then one on solar energy, and then perhaps one written by Pat on the Berkshire Green Committee. Ideally, Corinna felt it is best to have three pieces in the works to stay ahead of the deadline.

100% Renewable Energy campaign: Pat had difficulty emailing and printing a more recent draft of a resolution that she hoped to take to the BoS. She stated again that the purpose of adopting such a resolution is to create a 100% renewable energy benchmark as an aspiration. Cambridge, Amherst, and a few other cities/towns in Massachusetts have adopted such a resolution. Juliette expressed her concern stating that there are town energy systems (vehicle gasoline and diesel usage) that cannot currently rely on renewable energy. All agreed that Egremont has done so much already to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Pat was asked to check with folks in Williamstown and Lenox to hear their views on adopting such a resolution.

Salt on Egremont's Road: Susan reported a recent Board of Selectmen discussion on topic. The issue has been addressed in the past and the town does use a liquid product. Marj will report back at next meeting with more details.

Berkshire Green Committees Network: The last meeting was on green electric aggregation. The committee would like to sharpen their focus and determine how they can better serve the community.

Bottles and Cans Collection: The collection is proceeding. It would certainly be helpful if more people volunteered their time so the lion's share of the work doesn't go Marj and Juliette (Marj and Juliette don't mind, though). The amount of time needed for the collection has diminished thanks to more awareness at the transfer station. November's fundraiser was for the South Egremont School. Funds for December will go to Salvation Army's local holiday relief programs.

Sustainability Coordinator: The 18-month contract with Colonial Power for residences will begin January 1st. There is no penalty fee to leave before the contract expires if lower rates can be found elsewhere. Verde Energy is offering a separate program which offers a rate of 11.45/kW and \$100 sign up bonus for green power. An email will soon go out to town residents explaining the two programs. There is no minimum number of signups for the Colonial Power program if residents switch to the Verde program.

Juliette will soon file the annual report for the Green Community grant program. It is her hope to apply to the Green Community's competitive grant program in Spring 2018 to receive further funding for future town energy projects. Ideas for future energy projects are: purchasing and converting the town's 33 streetlights with LEDs and upgrading the heating/cooling system at town hall.

Other matters: Members present contributed for a holiday gift for a local child. A gift from the child's wish list will be purchased.

*Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, **January 9, 2018, at 4:00 pm.***

Submitted by Juliette Haas