

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 13, 2018

The meeting opened at 4:08. Present were Marj Wexler (Chair), Juliette Haas, Corinna Barnard, Robin Goldberg and Pat Konecky. Richard Allen arrived midway through.

Minutes of the 10/30/18 meeting were approved.

CET Hazmat collections in doubt: Marj had news about CET, the Center for Eco Technology, up in Pittsfield: Jamie Cahillane is leaving the group, which means the hazmat collections that he has organized for towns in our area, for many years, could be ending. Members expressed dismay. Juliette will check on the situation and report back.

Berkshire Edge:

Last meeting Pat offered to write about what nearby cities are doing to curb emissions. She is not sure when she will turn that in.

Corinna mentioned that Emily has offered to write about the committee's work on a greenhouse gas inventory.

For a third and pending column, Corinna asked Juliette about Egremont's annual solid waste results—non-recyclables-- which Juliette provided. Instead of declining, this year the town's "waste line" got larger. In FY 17 the figure fell, for the first time in several years, to under 400 tons. In FY 18 it rose to 424 tons, up 35 tons. (Bottles and cans fell, to 85 tons from 94 tons, but hauls stayed the same.) Why did our waste rise? The loss of the town's bulky rigid collection accounts for 7 tons. As for the remaining 28, some of the possibilities discussed were an improving economy, more product packaging, a rise in vacation rentals. Corinna offered to draft a piece based on this year's data. Robin suggested that the piece present some advice and solutions.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory:

Reasons why doing this would be beneficial were reviewed: it would help identify areas where the town had room for improvement. Inventory areas described in a Massachusetts Climate Action Network leaflet were adopted by individual members, see below, who agreed to have a working meeting to help each other gather data. Marj offered to find a date—for after Thanksgiving and before the next meeting—at a place that, unlike Town Hall, offered internet connectivity, where members could gather to look into the following areas:

--Juliette offered to gather municipal data on all the existing categories except for waste since the criterion—sending waste to incineration—does not apply.

In the residential sector the data gathering assignments are:

Electricity: Corinna

Building heat (oil and/or natural gas)—Marj

Transportation—Pat

Calculating emissions—Marj suggested asking Emily Eyre, who had to miss the meeting due to illness, if she would take that area.

Pat pointed out that the committee is not embarking on the project, but pursuing its feasibility. As such we will be looking into the sources of data and how possible this

effort might be. Pat also suggested that it would be helpful to contact people in three other towns to find out if an inventory project such as this was helpful. Marj offered to check with those names provided by Oriana Reilly—in Princeton, Bolton and Orange.

Large appliances: Juliette raised the idea of raising awareness about responsible large appliance disposal, on the heels of Emily's good experience getting a rebate from MassSaves when she upgraded her refrigerator. This could be a Berkshire Edge article at some point, or a postcard to members of the town.

The next meeting will be Nov. 11 at 4pm at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard