

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Jan.15, 2019

The meeting opened at 4:15. Present were Marj Wexler (Chair), Juliette Haas, Emily Eyre, Pat Konecky, Corinna Barnard.

Minutes of the 12/11/18 meeting were approved.

Marj said our agenda was the renewable energy checklist.

Emily read off these items.

- 1) Occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- 2) Energy management system
- 3) Create a local outreach to help connect residents and businesses with energy efficiency audits and upgrades.
- 4) Create a climate action plan
- 5) New buildings required to be solar ready (including residential)
- 6) Wind turbines installed or wind energy purchases
- 7) Install bike lanes, or “sharrows”
- 8) Install EV charging stations that are open to public.
- 9) Bulk purchasing and outreach program for renewable heating technologies
- 10) Tree plantings
- 11) Adaptation plan for increased heat waves and stronger storms

Regarding No. 8, Juliette said she’d downloaded the grant application from Jim Barry, western representative for the state’s Green Communities division, and that it was going to be a lot of work. Pat and Emily offered to help. Juliette said a key decision would be placement. If a station were put at Town Hall, that process would be relatively simple. But if it is planned for Main Street, or anywhere involved the community, it would become more entailed. Juliette said she would send Pat the grant application and would contact Jim Barry and proceed from there. Quite possibly, a charging station subcommittee could be formed to meet with her and Jim Barry. Pat and Emily seemed the most likely to join that subcommittee.

Juliette announced that Egremont is up for a mattress recycling program. Given that Egremont might not generate that many mattresses, due to its small size, the pros and cons of possibly pairing with another town were discussed. One problem would be that another town’s involvement would add to the workload of the transfer station superintendent. A possible solution could be asking out-of-towners to register and come at scheduled times. The question of fee scales was raised. The program would lower disposal fees initially but those would go up if the Town adopted the program.

The committee then proceeded to weed out the renewable energy check list, to just items that were either feasible or not yet done. That list is below. No. 7 was added.

- 1) Energy management system
- 2) Occupancy sensors
- 3) Create a climate action plan
- 4) Install bike lanes, or “sharrows”
- 5) Install EV charging stations open to public.
- 6) Bulk purchasing and outreach program for renewable heating technologies
- 7) Tree plantings
- 8) Adaptation plan for increased heat waves and stronger storms—grant opportunity to Dept. of Public Health, under auspices of emergency management.
Ed McCormack, emergency management

Regarding No. 7 of the pared-down list, Pat said Bruce Bernstein of the Egremont Council on Aging, was working on a larger effort, possibly through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Pat said 1Berkshires is making tremendous strides in working on emergency planning, increasing help for heat and power outage. There was a discussion of more sightings of work crews from National Grid and others pruning hazardous branches and helping to prevent outages.

Pat wondered how climate preparedness plans would intersect with other town committees, such as Conservation and Agriculture. There was a discussion of how climate preparedness and emergence response overlapped, but were different. The Town currently addresses increasingly severe weather as an emergency-response matter. Corinna recalled the plan that Pittsfield was envisioning for renewably-powered buildings that could provide shelter when conventional power sources were damaged.

Item No. 3, bike lanes, was being addressed by another group, so the list was further pared down and reordered according to priority as a Green Committee working list.

- 1) EV charging station
- 2) Adaptation/emergency plan for increased heat waves and stronger storms
(Relatedly, Pat said she and others from 350.org, a climate activist group, were meeting with the person who will be leading the energy and environment committee of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.
- 3) Create a local outreach to help connect residents and businesses with energy efficiency audits and upgrades.
- 4) Occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights

Juliette reflected on the ongoing demands of grants, which require feedback and follow through. A high-efficiency Bosch fridge, for instance, has just arrived, with help from a grant. Once it is unpacked and plugged in, the paperwork on it continues.

Sustainability coordinator report: Three years ago, Juliette said she resigned as Berkshire county rep to Springfield MRF advisory board. She has reapplied and the first

meeting coming up. It's an important time to be on the board as the town's contract with Springfield MRF comes up in 2020.

Juliette mentioned the difficulties in the recycling markets and how standards for recycling loads are more stringent. Now, if a load is found to have more than 10 percent contamination, it will be rejected and the community will be charged. To alert town residents to this, Juliette was going to develop an info-graphic.

Other matters:

Pat noted a movement in Berkshires for towns whose aggregation contracts are running out to band together: She mentioned Pittsfield and Dalton, mentioned last time.

Pat: Juliette's diagram good for a public event.

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 12 at 4pm. Emily cannot attend.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard