

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES April 9, 2019

The meeting opened at 4:10. Present were Marj Wexler (Chair), Juliette Haas, Pat Konecky, Corinna Barnard.

Minutes of the 03/12/19 meeting were approved.

Sustainability Coordinator: On the previous Sunday Juliette attended a meeting in Sheffield about that town's becoming a green community, and the general consensus seemed positive. Jim Barry, western Massachusetts representative for the Department of Energy Resources, had paid a site visit to check on how Egremont was fulfilling a competitive Green Community grant. On waste diversion efforts, Juliette had very good and surprising news. While Egremont's "waste line" expanded a lot last year, this year it appears to be losing girth. Numbers, so far, are low in all categories: waste, recyclables, paper. It is possible that trash might hit a record low, going under 396 tons of MSW, or municipal solid waste.

Amid an overall discussion of the problems facing recycling markets, Juliette noted that the glass market had been hurt by the switch of many beer bottles to cans. Marj said that even though the recycling market for glass is down, she'd still rather shop for glass containers than plastic, because it was important to keep fighting the global problem of plastic pollution.

Marj asked Juliette for a summary of the grant monies and projects she has arranged as town Sustainability Coordinator. Juliette reported on a \$4,900 grant in 2018 through the small materials recovery program of the Massachusetts Department for Environmental Protection to help pay for a new trash compactor. She also won a \$7,800 Green Communities competitive grant, which paid for an efficient fridge for Town Hall and two tankless water heaters: one for Town Hall and one for the Library. As a result of those grant projects, the town will benefit from ongoing and associated energy/operational savings. In 2020 she intends to apply for a Green Communities grant to convert the Town Hall heating system to mini-split heaters.

Roadside Cleanup Day on April 27: Marj went over some roads that still need coverage. Pat and Juliette volunteered for two stretches. Marj is trying to reserve the North Egremont fire house for the evening pizza party for volunteers, which starts at 6pm. Arrangements for pizza pickup, desserts, beverages and salads were made. Corinna suggested planning out the committee's presentation on home energy efficiency. Juliette said she can bring informational materials and is willing to lead the discussion and speak about her own plans for solar panels and mini-splits. Marj agreed to speak about Indows, which are seal-tight interior storm windows. Juliette offered to bring in a sample of an Indow. Pat may bring a home energy checklist to distribute.

Berkshire Edge: Corinna said an edit about Berkshire County and EV infrastructure is out to a guest author, Mary Stucklen. Juliette suggested that the next column after that address the problem of recycling contamination.

The Reuse Summit, which many members plan to attend, is on May 9.

Juliette noted that the Agricultural Commission was requesting town money for a pollinator activity but that the town resolution was nonbinding and unfunded. Marj said it was nonetheless fine for the Agricultural Commission to seek such support even though it could not be expected or guaranteed. Corinna agreed, saying it was always fine to ask.

Juliette noted that she would be attending National Grid's energy efficiency meeting Worcester on April 30 if anyone wanted to join.

Corinna mentioned a National Grid grant opportunity that Pat had circulated, which could provide money for community energy awareness, which the Green Committee has recently identified as a core activity. Juliette said she would address that at the committee's next meeting, when she is fresh off the April 30 National Grid meeting in Worcester.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday (not Tuesday) May 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard