

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES May 2, 2019

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

Minutes of the 04/09/19 meeting were approved.

Sustainability Coordinator: Juliette attended the April 30 National Grid meeting in Worcester on energy efficiency and provided the following bullet points:

1. She applied for a REPA grant, of up to \$3000, through BRPC. It supports green-community endeavors, including filing reports; pursuing a cleaner municipal fleet and net-zero-carbon planning. (Pat noted that Holyoke has declared an intention to reach net-zero carbon emissions.)
2. She will look into replacing 38 town street lights with LEDs. A National Grid representative said the utility could send a team to change the fixtures. JH plans to test one bulb/fixture and try to follow the International Dark Sky guidelines for a warmer light. The National Grid rep thought it would be possible.
3. JH met with a project expediter to assist with next round of Green Communities and help identify projects and funding opportunities.
4. Regarding EV charging stations, Juliette spoke with Mike at Horizon Solutions about coming to Catamount for a meeting about a Level-2 charging station. The total project would be \$15,000. National Grid has programs that could pay for \$13000 with \$2000 left up to the Town. Juliette said there was no information on fast charging stations. Pat suggested inquiring about an option in the infrastructure that would allow for an upgrade to a fast-charging Level-3.
5. National Grid has a Communities program designed to help towns boost residents' participation in energy audits. There are grants of up to \$40K to help sign-ups and then support following through on the recommended measures. Next steps on No. 5: Juliette will craft an outreach letter about the Communities initiative, with roles for committee members, if warranted, to follow.

Roadside Cleanup Day on April 27: This year it was too cold and rainy for the committee to run a sorting program, but Marj said the evening pizza party went well. Pat suggested asking volunteers in the future to collect with two bags, one for trash and one for recyclables. Marj said she would relay that request.

Pearl certification: The group discussed the possibility of promoting Pearl, which is equivalent of LEEDS for residential and can add value to property sales. Pearl provides steps for lowering your home's energy consumption — hiring a contractor, pursuing various upgrades, achieving certification, registering your house. Pat said that some people in the town may already qualify for Pearl certification, so a survey might help

reveal that. Pat also recommended getting realtors involved and informed, since the general level of green awareness among realtors, in her experience, was not high.

Emily suggested tapping Brian and Alice McGowan of General Knox Lane, who own a carbon-neutral house, to participate or join the Green Committee, particularly regarding Pearl certification. Marj agreed to extend an invitation.

Berkshire Edge: Corinna said she would write a column on the increased importance of avoiding recycling contamination and Juliette said that the annual Waste Line column, about the solid waste totals, was after that.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 4 at 4pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4.55.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard