

## EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Aug. 11, 2019

*The meeting opened at 4:02. Present were Marj Wexler (Chair), Juliette Haas, Emily Eyre, Richard Allen, Corinna Barnard, Pat Konecky.*

*Also present: Hinda Bodinger.*

Minutes of the 07/30/19 meeting were accepted.

**Use Less Plastic Challenge:** Hinda distributed planning materials for the challenge, which was reset for October from September. It was decided that Hinda will continue to provide leadership but delegate certain tasks. To that end, Juliette and Marj are going to form a working group. The first announcement of the project will be in the Town's September newsletter, via Marj. Corinna will pick up the same wording and place in the Berkshire Edge as an event promotion. Marj will create a separate Google group for participants.

### **Sustainability Coordinator**

#### **--Annual waste figures:**

The Town's record-low municipal waste numbers represent a savings of about \$11,000 a year in "tip" or dumping fees, compared to fiscal year 2012, when waste tonnage was at the highest point in Juliette's record keeping. (The savings figure is actually somewhat higher, because it does not include savings as a result of fewer dumpster hauls.) Juliette speculated that an uptick in people using the Town compost system may help explain the significant decline this year.

The Town's recycling revenue from beverage containers and paper is very low. Next year, when the town negotiates a new recycling contract, it is possible that the Town may have to begin paying something to get rid of recyclables.

Since bulky rigid plastic items are down to one ton a year and one haul, Juliette is considering eliminating that collection. She is also contemplating using the container for bulky-rigid-plastics, which the Town owns, for the metals collection. That would eliminate the rental fee that the Town currently pays on the metal container.

**--EV chargers:** A meeting for local merchants about National Grid subsidies for EV chargers had not been well attended, but Juliette will continue to make the subsidies information available in case more interest develops.

**ReUse event:** Several committee members had attended an event at the Old Stone Mill in Adams earlier in the summer about ways to reuse items as a way of taking pressure off the waste stream and helping to reduce consumption in the first place (via things such as a “repair café). Members decided that one idea from that event – a “tool library”— is worth trying in Egremont. The idea is for neighbors to let each other know, via a Google group, what tools and piece of small equipment – post hole diggers, shovels — they would like to make available for loan. Details on this project to be pursued.

**Berkshire Edge articles:**

Corinna said the current queue is:

-- Town’s annual trash total/ September

--Look back at the Plastic Free October/ November

**Pat announced** that Extinction Rebellion was holding some local meetings in August and said she would make that information available via Egremont Posts.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, September 10 at 4pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard