

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Sept. 10, 2019

The meeting opened at 4:05. Present were Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler (Chair), Corinna Barnard, Pat Konecky.

Also present: Select Board member, Lucinda Vermuelen

Minutes of the 08/11/19 meeting were accepted and approved.

Sustainability coordinator: Juliette will be preparing a yearly sustainability report for Select Board.

Egremont 2019 Plastic Reduction Challenge Subcommittee: An introduction letter was being crafted to distribute on Neighbor Net. Participants may opt in by replying “yes” to join a Google group Marj has created and will receive daily tips and be eligible for daily raffle. Regarding the raffle prizes: Hinda Bodinger had already procured 22 prizes for the daily raffle and the Berkshire Co-Op has topped off the number needed (for a price each day of the month) by contributing nine \$10 gift certificates (each packaged in a Mason jar to encourage use of the bulk shopping area). A welcome letter will go out a few days before the start of October. End of month gathering of some kind to present Guido’s grand raffle prize basket. Corinna will pick up the announcement language and enter into the Berkshire Edge calendar.

Berkshire Edge articles:

Corinna said the current queue is:

--Look back at the Plastic Free October for November by Corinna

--Interview with Tate Coleman about improvements to Berkshire bus system by Pat.

Re transportation: Lucinda Vermuelen noted that transportation has been identified as No. 1 problem for people trying to age in place and for those employed to reach their places of work. She also said the current (25 percent completed) plan by Mass. DOT to rebuild the section of Route 43-to-Route 23-to Creamery Road requires input from the Select Board by the end of September. She added that if bus service comes to Egremont bus shelters can be traffic calming. A public meeting on the road rebuilding project has been postponed and the new date was not yet set. Lucinda said rotaries will be considered as part of the plan. Juliette noted that rotaries can be helpful in reducing stopping and idling. Corinna noted that the town’s bike air station outside the library was appreciated by a recent guest of hers. The group thought that at some point it would be good to publicize the existence of the town’s two air stations.

Home energy efficiency: Marj read an email from Emily Eyre, a committee member who could not attend the meeting, about planning a community “chat and

chew” presentation on home energy audits and efficiency programs. Juliette said National Grid in September is due to issue its request-for-proposals, or RFPs, for their Communities program, which is designed to publicize the company’s home-energy-efficiency programs and incentives.

Virtual Tool Library: Pat noted that the group had talked about Google group for sharing tools. She wondered if it would be appropriate to put information out via a town meeting and the answer was yes, at the May meeting. A discussion ensued about improving electronic communications and inviting free repairs to reduce consumption. Regarding the possibility of a breakage policy in the virtual tool library, it was generally agreed that a lender should be able to approve or decline a borrower and proceed at her or his own risk.

Pat said next week starts a week of climate strikes and would provide information about local and regional dates; Sept. 20 is global student strike day.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard