

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Feb. 18, 2020

The meeting opened at 3 pm. Present were Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler (Chair), Pat Konecky, Corinna Barnard.

Richard Shutzky also attended.

Minutes of the Jan. 21, 2020, meeting were modified (changing “townships” to “communities” as requested by Juliette) and then unanimously accepted.

Sustainability coordinator: The Town’s contract signing deadline with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility was extended to Feb. 28. Given the physical weight of bottles and cans, which will figure in processing fees, Juliette said a volunteer to collect them for redeeming would save the Town money. The Select Board has not embraced this idea in the past, however, due to legal workplace considerations.

Berkshire Edge articles:

Ideas for future columns:

- 1) Virtual tool library – about a community effort and sharing in general. (Spring)
- 2) MRF town materials and the shifts underway locally in the recycling industry.
- 3) BRTA bus routes to South County.
- 4) Rollout for rebates for EVs are back from state.
- 5) Findings of the National Grid’s Green Communities program, begun in 2012. Data from these various certified communities shows the strides possible in reducing electricity consumption (renewables, conservation & efficiency). Biggest challenge is transportation (which could provide a tie-in with No. 3 & No. 4).

Home energy audits and National Grid’s energy-savings programs: Juliette will send reminder to Egremont email lists.

Acknowledging green businesses in Egremont: Marj will place an invitation in the Town newsletter.

Movie: “Reuse Because You Can’t Recycle the Planet,” released in August 2015 and running time of two hours. Discussion tabled.

Virtual tool library update: Notification language by Marj and Emily was approved for publication in the Town newsletter and for a first notice to be put out via Egremont Neighbors and Egremont Posts.

Egremont Roadside Cleanup: April 18 with a rain date TBA. This will be the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 and several events are to be expected.

Earth Day recycling event/fundraiser, South Egremont School: Juliette said two parents reached out about an Earth Day fund raiser based on collecting bottles and cans at the Transfer Station. Committee members agreed that it was not an age-

appropriate activity for children and declined the chance to lead the collection themselves.

Videos on how to deal with sorting waste for proper collection at our Transfer Station: This suggestion comes from Town citizen Hinda Bodinger. The group discussed the need for people to better understand how to sort their trash and compost. Expenses were considered. Pat said she would check with some teens who might want to do it as a project. One idea was a video featuring the “Toter of Shame,” which would show the items that are commonly put in wrong collection area and how to sort them properly.

Uses for recycled glass: Pat said her daughter’s pottery teacher would use it. Sheffield Pottery said no. This use was not considered strong enough to make a market, but could add to demand.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17 at 3pm. (Post meeting, this was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard