

Egremont Green Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes, January 6, 2022, via Zoom

The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m.

Members present were Pat Konecky (co-chair), Emily Eyre (co-chair), Sharon Waskow, Marj Wexler and guest Bonnie Greenwood.

Minutes of the November 30, 2021, meeting were accepted unanimously by Pat, Emily, Sharon and Marj.

Sharon introduced a discussion about how to increase membership or at least participation of non-members. We'd like to increase our outreach and get more input from the community.

During covid, we could hold "walk and talk" outdoor meetings with designated topics for discussion. Or participants could read an assigned article prior to the walk and then discuss while walking ("Read, walk, discuss"). Sharon sees the value of focusing on new ideas, especially in regard to the environment. Emily supported the idea.

Bonnie suggested calling it a "Green Walk." We could promote this to a target group like the Egremont October Plastic Challenge Google group and the Egremont Walkers. A choice of dates would accommodate a moderately large number of people. A test run with the Egremont Walkers would be a prudent way to start. A second topic (conversation prompts/talking points) could be ready if the first topic finishes early. When the weather gets warmer, we could meet at French Park. Sharon will compose some talking points and work with Pat to finalize invitations and walks, perhaps by the end of next week.

Sharon suggested partnering with other groups such as the Garden Club, Egremont Land Trust, Agriculture Committee, April Hill/Greenagers, etc., to read a book, an article, invite a joint speaker, etc., to discuss. Abby Rogers-McKee of the Garden Club supports this idea. We could talk about topics of mutual interest such as climate, sustainability. We could start with the Garden Club and see how it develops. Pat would like the topic to lean toward climate action, but the other groups should have input on the topic. We'd also like to be able to identify people who would later be willing to support climate action.

A vote to plan and execute Green Walks to engage the community in the discussion of climate issues passed unanimously (Pat, Sharon, Marj, Emily).

Publications Update: The Committee plans to publish an interview with Susan Waite, MAC DEP municipal assistance coordinator for the western region but Pat and Sharon need to cull information from the interview/information to appear in the Town Newsletter as an article or a series of eco-tips. Pat suggested we could also invite Susan to speak at a Spring event around Egremont Recycles Day. Sharon suggested the Committee should always have an article in the Newsletter. Sharon and Pat will strive to create the article for the Newsletter and selected eco-tips.

Emily reported that the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee held 3 “Community Resilience Building Workshops” via Zoom on December 14, 15 and 16 with the purpose of receiving input from Egremont stakeholders. The 3 main topics discussed were 1) Infrastructure, 2) Societal and economical resiliency and 3) Natural resources available to aid in resiliency. The first concern was severe flooding.

Plans for promoting the Better Bottle Bill were discussed. We previously voted to support this effort. Pat reminded us that we should present this idea to the Select Board, as it is being communicated to the entire community and espousing a position. Marj and Pat will draft a statement to be sent to the community and get on the BoS agenda (January 18).

Could there be a team to begin planning an event for fall or summer, possibly on Egremont Recycles Day? Pat suggested moving Egremont Recycle Day to May or June so the weather is better. Recycle Day could be expanded into a French Park event for adults and families, with pizza, speakers, movies, etc. Sharon: perhaps a recycle/trash art show. Barbara Kalish is willing to present this idea in fuller detail during the next committee meeting. The committee could partner with the Garden Club, the Agricultural Commission, etc., and rename it “Egremont Green Day.” We could also include other people such as Barbara Kalish, Hinda Bodinger and other community members. Pat, Sharon, and Bonnie will work this week to get the project started.

Emily would prefer to do administrative tasks for the Committee but not detailed project planning at this time.

Pat plans to support legislative issues coming up this month, as the issues will be voted on shortly, personally inviting members to participate if they are interested.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the vote was unanimous by Pat, Sharon, Marj and Emily. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Emily Eyre