

Sustainability Meeting Minutes June 6, 2022

Attendees: Jeremy Littlefield, Dillis Morris, Herb D'Arcy, Janet Metcalf, Lauren Therriault, Nancy Dowey, Paul Bemis, Brenda Deidrich, Donna Worthen.

Meeting called to order at 6:35. Introductions were made for the new members. Dillis is from Alexandra, and talked about cardboard being brought from there.

Meeting minutes approved. Motion made by Janet and seconded by Donna. All in favor.

Paul Bemis spoke about initiatives from the Energy Committee. Warrant article to cancel out taxes raised on solar arrays on homes. Lots of towns are exempt, including Campton. He needs 50 (he thinks) signatures to get that started. All agreed that this makes sense. The 2nd initiative is to talk about community power. It would allow the town to negotiate for better rates using collective purchasing power. Waiting for eversource to send a transformer for the solar array by the Transfer Station. Will need a buy-in from the town. Paul will develop a plan and let us know. Janet recommended having a video or informational meeting at the library. Paul wants to explain it to people to get the message across and have community support. Energy costs are rising. PACE Property Assessed Clean Energy, ties loan for solar to the loan for your home and runs the length of the use of the solar array. Nancy wants Paul to keep us in the loop. Janet wonders if we need a motion to approve. We will wait until something is more set in motion and there is a plan. Paul would like to use us to be a sounding board for his plans.

Cardboard Update: We're close to another 37 bails. We are making money. 58 tons out of the waste stream! Alexandria is bringing cardboard too. June 9th they are meeting with Mark Bucklin and NRRA, select board, and people from other towns are awarding us for our recycling efforts. Herb said his goal is to figure out at that meeting what is next. What can we take out of the stream next? Bailing Aluminum Cans? VA is not taking them anymore. Start using the bailer for something else.

Spring Fair: went great! Herb wanted his picture in the paper but it wasn't. 120 people there. About 40-50 people at the one in 2020. Art teacher said that she felt good to be around everyone who shared common interests. Hopefully people will become more active in this way. Good mix of booths and information. Really engaging for all the people who came. We made \$120 for the raffle at the fair. What should we do with the money? How do we open an account? Should we talk to the town about it? Nancy will ask Wendy at town hall. Janet sent in a request for reimbursement for signs from the town.

Old Home Days: August 27th. Have a booth there? Nancy will check with the OHD committee and if we have to pay. We have two baskets from Katie at Reimagined that we could have a raffle for. Ukulele band will be playing there. Janet said we should make a sheet with our mission/goals to give out.

July is Plastic Free Month: Branching out to educate the community. Kids programs. Maybe write something in the Bristol Buzz about it.

Library Program: June 28th. Bee houses out of bamboo and tin cans. Jenna. Lauren will contact Ashland Bee Keepers to make sure someone will be there.

Next Projects: Eco Club? With students from local schools. Jeremy said he would like to see more in the school with students there who are very concerned about the planet. Community Clean Up- September or October. Herb said it's very clean around town now. Janet still has bags and lists we could use for the event. Sept 24th? Avoid October 1st because it's the marathon. Donna recommended Plastic/single use grocery bags and not using them. Talk to local restaurants about take out containers. Rewilding: we picked a bad spot with rocks under it so the roots did not overwinter. Think about this with the new fire/police station. Talk to them during the planning of that project. Community gardens looks great.

Officially asking Jeremy and Brenda to join the committee. Both agreed, Nancy will put their names forward. Share a list of things that are compostable. Composting success.

Take summer off. Thursdays 2nd of the month. September 8th at 6:30 at MSL.

Action Items:

Nancy: brochure for OHD, Blurb about Plastic Free July. Treasury checking account.

Jeremy: research Eco Clubs.

Janet: Clean up Bristol plan.

Herb: Cardboard. Something in the Buzz about cardboard success.

Lauren: make sure someone is coming to MSL meeting in June for Bees. Start posting again on FB page.