

The September 12, 2017, meeting opened at 4:04.

Present were Marj Wexler (Chair), Susan Bachelder, Corinna Barnard, Emily Eyre, Robin Goldberg, Juliette Haas, and Pat Konecky.

Minutes of the 8/8/17 meeting were approved.

Plastic Film Recycling campaign: It was suggested that we form a subcommittee to create a mailer that would cover plastic film recycling, among other things. An idea is to start a collection at the Transfer Station that focuses first on easy-to-understand items, such as dry-cleaning bags, and soda bottle and toilet paper overwraps, and later other items could be added. Clean – always. We will need a new toter for this. Trex is the company that recycles this stuff.

Berkshire Edge articles: The next article, by Corinna and Juliette, will be on the current bottle-bill, which isn't enforced well and is unwieldy, with different bottles needing to be redeemed at different places. We also need a more comprehensive bottle bill (water, juices, etc.)

Bottles and cans collection: Juliette apologized for starting this without discussion with EGC, but she hadn't intended that Greenies would step up. But we did, and it's going very well! It will continue through Sept. Scheduling is being done by email. Marj will bring a jar to collect from those who would like to contribute money.

Recycling of plastics: Corinna raised the possibility of a Green Committee flash mob at the Transfer Station, perhaps next September, the purpose of which would be to educate people about sorting their trash properly. Could be done earlier, in the spring. Tbc.

NB: the triangle on a container does NOT mean it is recyclable here.

100% Renewable Energy campaign: Members will study the www.mapowerforward.com/ website. Our aim to be a zero-waste town by 2035 could be explained in an Eco-Tip. Attention could be brought to it via an illuminated LED sign at the TS (see <http://overpasslightbrigade.org/>). We will ask the BoS to support the 100% Renewable idea, which is not a commitment.

HeatSmart Mass: This is a community-based outreach and education program related to clean heating and cooling technologies: air-source and ground-source heat pumps, central biomass heating, and solar hot water. It follows the SolarizeMass model, which was very successful. However, we worked with GB on the latter, and we don't the time to pursue this now, particularly on our own. There is concern that the coolant is not environmentally friendly.

Sustainability Coordinator: Juliette recently met with Jan Ameen, Franklin County's Solid Waste Coordinator in Greenfield, and observed their extended collections of button batteries, propane tanks, and mercury thermostats. It is hoped that in the near future Egremont will also add collections for these items.

We need a new and better sign on the toter that collects #4 bags.

Bad news about the Bulky Rigid Plastic container. There was too much contamination, and China is accepting less of our trash. Only 5 items will be collected: plastic lawn furniture, crates, buckets, toters (wheels removed), and baskets. It's hard to go backward!

*Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, **October 17, 4:00 PM.***

Submitted by Marj Wexler, Sec'y