

*The October 31, 2017, meeting opened at 4:05.*

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

**Minutes** of the 9/12/17 meeting were approved.

**Berkshire Edge articles:** Corinna is very pleased with the progress of this project. November's article, by Juliette, will be on "wishful recycling." January's article -- plastic film recycling, by Emily. Corinna suggested a light article for Dec, perhaps on our compostable party-ware. Other thoughts: aiming for 100% renewable energy (municipal), holiday greenness (wrapping paper; xmas trees for dunes and horse stables; giving gifts of donations, food, and services instead of stuff; using cardboard boxes for sheet composting). Also, assembling a wishlist of things we want to do, such as working toward an improved bottle bill and increased recycling. Also, a history of renewable energy projects in Egremont.

**100% Renewable Energy campaign:** Pat sent us a draft of a resolution that we hope will go to the BoS. It is aspirational, asking the Town to commit to a goal, but not promising to reach it. At the heart of the draft is an intent to encourage the town to move away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy wherever possible. It also encourages support of bills that will transition the Commonwealth to 100% renewable energy by 2050 (energy used for electricity, heating and cooling, transportation, agricultural uses, industrial uses) and to obtain 100% of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2035. The idea is for our community and others to do what is best for them while aiming for these goals.

Remember to study the [www.mapowerforward.com/](http://www.mapowerforward.com/) website.

**Berkshire Green Committees Network:** The group meets quarterly, and the next meeting is this Thurs. The topic is electricity and aggregation, and members hope to learn what every Berkshire town wants.

**Sustainability Coordinator:** The Town signed an 18-mo contract with Colonial Power for residences, which uses solely renewable (wind) energy. Colonial's rate (11.354/kW) is presently better than NatGrid's rate for the next 6 mo (12.673¢). NatGrid's rate might be lower in months 6 to 12, but experts guess that it will again be higher in months 12 to 18.

Today the BoS signed a power purchase agreement with NuGen Capital for municipal electricity. Net metering credits will come from a solar farm in Winchendon, MA.

**Bottles and cans collection:** EGC raised \$825 for hurricane relief in Sept. BWAG-Environment raised \$622 for Plastic Oceans Foundation in October. We hoped to find a local nonprofit that would like to step up and claim some months, but an email via NeighborNet didn't result in any leads. Robin will call a contact about the food pantry (at St. James Place). Other possibilities: Greenagers, Friends of Prospect Lake. Meanwhile, a few of us will gather and redeem the c&b collected at the ends of TS days.

**Other matters:** Robin noted that bike racks have been installed at the Library, Town Hall, and French Park.

*Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, **November 28, 4:00 PM.***

*Submitted by Marj Wexler, Sec'y*