

The January 23, 2018, meeting opened at 4:04.

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

Minutes of the 11/28/17 meeting were approved.

Berkshire Edge articles: Juliette's article on wishful recycling was very well received. Other ideas in the pipeline: Earth Day (in April; Mass DEP has a list of state-wide events), availability of solar (JH), Berkshire Green Committees Network (PK), energy efficiency, energy aggregation (JH & CB), plastic film (EE & CB), our pet peeves and favorite tips related to energy and recycling. Noted: Berle Farm's (<http://www.berlefarm.com/index.php>) yogurt (in glass jars) is available at Guido's and the Co-op.

100% Renewable Energy campaign: Pat reported that there will be a 100% renewable Berkshires Summit at BCC on March 2, sponsored by MassPirg, 350, Environment Mass. Participants will be elected officials, reps from town depts. Also committees, and interested business and orgs.

Check the website: www.mapowerforward.com/.

Salt on Egremont's Roads: Marj read Jim Noe's thoughtful letter about the use of salt on Egremont's Roads. The Highway Dept uses the minimum state-required amount of salt on the roads. It is a combination of rock salt (NaCl) and a deicing liquid made of tree sap and a byproduct of the brewing industry. The state limits the use of sand (so, 60% salt, 40% sand), as it has been declared an environmental hazard. The HD doesn't use liquid calcium, as it corrodes machinery. The EGC appreciates Jim's decisions, and we understand tendency of drivers to drive too fast.

Bottles and cans collection: Juliette has managed to continue the collection for various charities despite the cold, collecting \$2200 between Sept and Jan. We need to encourage people to take one day per month, and we need to make a schedule. There was general agreement that we'd like to contribute to local charities, such as Greenagers, 4-H, French Park, Friends of Prospect Lake, and the Egremont FD.

Sustainability Coordinator: Juliette is preparing an application for a Green Communities Competitive grant. She is working with B2Q Associates, a contracting firm specializing in municipal energy efficiency and conservation projects. Objects: to replace Town Hall lighting with LED bulbs and motion detectors, and to replace town-leased sodium streetlights with LED bulbs. (The state had wanted 7000-Kelvin bulbs before, are now in favor of 4000 K. Discussion followed about whether this was still too blue.)

Other matters: Pat suggested that we might add a demonstration of e-vehicles and e-bikes to our Egremont-Recycles Day in April.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 4:00 PM.

Submitted by Marj Wexler, Sec'y