

## EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 8, 2024

Members Attending - Emily Eyre (chairperson) Marj Wexler, Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow, Pat Konecky, Bonnie Greenwood; Guests Attending - Peg McDonough (Egremont Grant Coordinator), Mary McGurn.

The meeting began at 4:33. Emily welcomed the committee members and guests. She noted that the meeting is being recorded and that the AI Companion is recording a transcript of the meeting and will produce a summary at the end of the meeting. The minutes from the December 6, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Sustainability Report**

Juliette noted that Mass DEP's Smart Materials Recycling Program (Smart) has a required filing coming up. Juliette keeps records of the various categories of waste monthly and reports all transfer station tonnage. Yearly spending is also reported. The report is due on January 15th. In response to Sharon's question about how the data is collected, Juliette explained that the municipal solid waste hauler bills us by the tonnage, so they weigh it. Paper and recycling tonnage comes from the Springfield MRF.

### **Old Business**

#### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant, February 6 Program**

Peg reported that she's arranged that only one program is now required for the MVP grant this year so the February 6 event would meet that requirement. Juliette asked that after the February 6 events we consider future events, possibly plastic reduction or invasive management.

Regarding publicity ideas and actions - Peg put together a press release which was included in the town newsletter and an announcement was included in the front page of the newsletter. Mary McGurn sent an email blast and put the announcement on the town website. Information about the event has also been sent local media outlets (newspapers) and posted on the town's Facebook page and on the Egremont Forum. We'll advertise once a week on Neighbor Net and distribute printed flyers. Peg and Sharon are working on extra publicity. Peg asked about a post card mailing to households. Emily endorsed the idea assuming we can act quickly enough. Peg noted that there's money in the grant to cover the mailing. Juliette said that she's worked with Quick Print, our local printer in the past. We could do a labeling and mailing party to send it out. Assuming we're ready with copy, Quick Print staff could prepare the mailer in a week. Peg agreed to try to put it together quickly, working with Quick Print. Emily mentioned Mary McGurn used an image that's on our website. Mary confirmed that she has a commercial license for the image and it could be used for the postcard. Emily spoke to the advantages of posting flyers at the post offices and other venues around town, as well at the Mt. Washington COA, and

Conservation Committee. Marj asked Stephanie Blumenthal to promote the event in Sheffield. Peg can do outreach to Town Administrators of other towns.

Juliette is running the computer for the event and Emily will Moderate.

One of our three speakers, Evan Hardcastle, will be addressing the topic of new construction and retrofits. The other speakers are Ned Wilson from Sunbug Solar (which has merged with ReVision Energy) and Larry Cretan from Rene Energy Consumers Alliance. Peg will speak with Ned Wilson regarding which name to use for his company.

#### Program pre-registration and follow up options

If we do pre-registration, as previously discussed, it would need to be added to all promo and a committee member will need to follow-up. Emily suggested this may not be necessary. Rather than doing a full-blown post event follow-up survey, we could provide our email and ask people to contact us if they have further questions, want to provide comments on the program or make suggestions for future programs. Marj will go through chat and also keep an eye on EGC email to see about follow up questions. She will forward the questions to the relevant committee member. Emily will remind the speakers to provide their contact information so they could receive follow-up directly. She will also announce 'if you have questions, comments, or ideas for future programs please contact the EGC at [Egremont.green@gmail.com](mailto:Egremont.green@gmail.com),' both at the beginning and at the end of the event. She also expressed concern that our email is checked frequently so that we could share and respond to any inquiries promptly.

Peg suggested that there are apps that could capture the emails for us. She will look into a chat capture app. Sharon pointed out that we could have much to learn both about event contact and organization if we ask for and receive feed-back.

#### **CMRK Magnet Sign Update**

Juliette created a new magnet which will be posted on the CMRK bin in order to remind people that donations need to be bagged.

#### **Plastic recycling/reduction update**

Juliette stated that our contract with the Springfield MRF requires that they are recycling and they ship the material to the recycling center as dictated by market needs. She reported that Arlene Miller, of the Springfield MRF suggested a meeting with Springfield MRF's Mike Moore, plant manager and Chris Liccarelli, waste management (they oversee shipping of the waste) so that we could learn more about where the materials go. Numbers 1,2, and 5 plastics are being recycled. Other plastics are not recycled but they are not a major component of the recyclables. Marj suggested that we not overly complicate the rules at our transfer station and allow all types of plastics, trusting that the unacceptable materials will be sorted out at the MRF.

Emily noted that if we have that meeting with the Mike and Chris from the Springfield MRF, we probably should create very specific questions and send them ahead of time. Sharon, Marj, and Pat will create questions, Bonnie will review and then the questions could be reviewed at a future Green Committee meeting.

Sharon and Emily suggested that we look into resurrecting a version of the October Plastic Challenge, updating the group's name and forming a group of people that would like to discuss and learn more about recycling and plastic reduction. We could start with people who participated the last time. The tips could then be posted on neighbor net either as a tip a day or periodically or both.

### **New Business**

Tom Irwin of the Dalton Green Committee is seeking support for Paint Stewardship legislation presently before the MA legislature. Paint Stewardship includes a surcharge on all paint sold. Stores would then take unused paint back. Our select board declined to sign on but the EGC can sign on. Marj moved that we vote to endorse the house bills that speak to MA paint product stewardship legislation - H823, S542, S541. The motion passed unanimously. Emily will share the vote result with the Select Board.

Our next meeting is at Wednesday January 24th, 4:30.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:50.