

Egremont Green Committee Minutes
January 10, 2023

Committee members present: Emily Eyre, Pat Konecky, Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler, Sharon Waskow, Bonnie Greenwood. Other attendees: Margaret McDonough, Mary McGurn

Meeting began at 4:34.

October 25, 2022, meeting minutes approved.

Sustainability Report: Juliette deferred.

Update on EV chargers and town fleet, Peg: Town has received a copy of the fleet assessment by National Grid. They whittled the list to about 18 from the original 24 focusing on cars and lighter trucks. They will act as a buying portal for EVs. Apparently this is part of a national effort for economies of scale. They will keep us posted about available inventory. Currently, inventory is limited. Our town doesn't have an immediate need for a vehicle but Peg will monitor the need going forward. The Highway Department might be next. We do have the option of going to local dealers or buying used. Supply chain issues and inflation seem to be impacting availability of EVs.

Peg is working with Tom Reynolds to get a list of municipal owned buildings' electrical capacity so that they can decide if upgrades are needed to accommodate chargers.

MVP committee - expression of interest round of the action grant is now open. Peg was asked by the BOS to submit a grant on behalf of the town. Projects are for Karner Brook and the Green River, for well and septic mapping, Blunt Rd construction for the culvert and other items. Peg prefers to focus on Karner Brook because of recent revelations of problems in that area. Millions of dollars are needed to maintain the water plant and dam. Some of these vulnerabilities could be covered by the MVP grant. We may also want to set up a well for backup.

EV school bus project. Emily reported that it is a challenging effort as our bus company, Dufour, would have to pay up front and get reimbursed. Juliette had spoken with the school bus companies about anti-idling efforts but found that while they were eager to hear about ideas and did have grants at their disposal they were not ready to move forward. The outlook for EV school buses may improve over time though one complication is that our school district consists of five towns. Pat volunteered to see how other towns have encouraged their school bus fleet to move towards becoming hybrid or full electric. Sharon asked if the EGC could make a statement about a preference for EV school buses. This item needs follow up.

Decarbonizing initiative - The November project that involved 30 tips sent by email was very successful. Emily has been keeping up flyers listing the tips at the South Egremont Post Office and the General Store. Next steps - Emily suggested decarbonization 101 explain the term in a

graphic presentation, and focus on money savings ideas. Food waste is another concern that Emily suggests we tackle as food waste contributes to our carbon footprint. Bonnie also suggested discussing composting as related to food waste and transportation issues such as jet travel and reliance on cars. Mary offered support for the food waste issue. She noted an app called Recipe AI which is available for public use. Tell the app what food you have on hand and it will come up with a recipe. Juliette noted that our town subsidizes backyard compost bins.

Juliette suggested finding a speaker through the state Mass CEC or Mass Saves to speak at a meeting on the topic of decarbonization. Juliette could share her experience with her new home for example. She pointed out that her solar array is the basis of the success of her house. Pat suggested defining decarbonization leading into the decarbonization event, repeating our transfer station event with compost bins and discussing composting and food waste, and investigating whether there's a follow-up to the Solarize program that we can initiate in town.

Juliette suggested forming a committee to define and schedule upcoming projects. Marj and Emily volunteered. They'll present at our next meeting.

Emily noted that we've been sharing our 30 tips with Sheffield and Lee. She added that the Open Meeting Law requires that we have to keep a file of all pieces published by the committee. Mary added that our published or other documents that we want publicly available can be downloaded on the Town's document file.

We each owe Marj \$5, \$6, or \$7 for the committee's Christmas Gift for a child.

Marj noted that the blue CMRK bins at the Transfer Station collected 6,402 lb of fabrics, so the town received \$448.14. The previous two quarters were significantly lower.

Pat reported that the Green Committee's budget request was for \$381.00.

Pat noted the recent interest in setting up a sharing system and asked that we keep it in mind for future activity. Sharon asked if we might find someone to take on this project with the support of the Green Committee. Juliette pointed out that the neighbor net functions in this way even without a physical location though we could find someone to put together a list of useful items or in some way further this project. Mary noted that the Council on Aging has been collecting items to share for elders. Peg Muskat manages these donations on behalf of the Council. Sharon pointed out that these ideas actually fall under over consumption. Sharon and Pat will continue to work on the topic.

Pat noted that the next Sheffield Repair Cafe will be held on Saturday, June 10th.

Bonnie Greenwood was welcomed as a new EGC member.

Next meeting was scheduled for 4:30 on Tuesday, February 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50