

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 10, 2022, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting opened at 5:35 p.m.

Members present: Pat Konecky (co-chair), Emily Eyre (co-chair), Marj Wexler, and Sharon Waskow. Also present: Bonnie Greenwood and Taylor Millspaugh, a representative from CRMK.

Guest Taylor Millspaugh spoke to the committee about the company's pick up of used clothing, accessories, textiles and swap shop items from the Town's transfer station. CRMK is a for-profit wholesale collector of used items, which are then sold to other companies that process the items for thrift shops or recycling. CRMK would pay the Town 7 cents per pound for clothing, accessories and textiles. The company would periodically take all items from the swap shop, which would need to be boxed by Egremont volunteers prior to pick-up. CRMK also offers scheduled residential pick up of used small household items. Because CRMK is a for-profit company, Marj will check with the Town if has a way of handling the income.

Minutes of the January 6, 2022, meeting were accepted unanimously.

Further discussion about expanding Egremont Recycles Day was held. Pat made several suggestions on possible ways to make the day a larger community event. The day could be 2 pronged: 1) roadside cleanup and 2) a multi generational festival, to be held after the roadside cleanup, in French Park. Discussion was held regarding moving the date to mid-May, as the climate may be more favorable for outdoor activities, grass will not have grown tall enough to prohibit roadside cleanup, and mosquitoes are not yet a significant issue. A motion was made to approve holding Egremont Recycle Day in the late spring and to further investigate the idea of expanding the Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Rain Barrel Sale Update: Emily reported on the price increase and minimum order requirement for 2022. Discussion was held around the question: Is there a market for rain barrels in Egremont this year, or did residents who wanted them already purchase them during our sale last year? Marj suggested a "soft opening" to determine if there is enough interest from Egremonters this year. If the response is low, the sale can include Alford, Mt. Washington and possibly Sheffield. The motion was made for the Rain Barrel project to take place this year, providing there is enough interest from residents, and passed unanimously.

Sustainability Coordinator Report: no report.

Discussion was held regarding new eco-tips and posts. Topics included information from an interview with Susan Waite, DEP municipal assistance coordinator for the western region, tips on the Beyond Plastic website, and recycling information. In addition to eco-tips appearing in town newsletter, the tips can also be posted on Egremont Posts (once a month). The motion was made to create these eco-tips for posting on Egremont Post or NeighborNet and on the Town Newsletter. The motion unanimously passed.

There are no upcoming articles for the Berkshire Edge. However, Sharon volunteered to write one if someone will suggest a compelling topic.

Discussion was held about requesting that the Town opt out of pesticide spraying in Egremont. Based on information provided by Juliette Haas, the Committee agreed that the Town is not considering town-wide spraying unless emergency spraying is needed.

Discussion was held regarding the editing and expansion of the Green Committee page on Town website. Mary McGurn suggested to Emily that this work be done prior to the new site design in May. It was agreed that the page could be expanded, such as including an enhanced Mission Statement, updating the textile section, and including more informational resources and website links.

The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Eyre