

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023

Members present in person at Town Hall: Pat Konecky (chair), Emily Eyre (tech), Marj Wexler

Attending by Zoom: Bonnie Greenwood, Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow

Guest: Mary McGurn (by Zoom)

Co-chair Pat Konecky opened the meeting at 4:36. She welcomed the group and asked for a motion to approve the January 10, 2023, minutes. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Sustainability Report: Juliette's internet connection failed, and she was not able to give her report.

Old Business

Three-Town Green Meeting: Marj (who represents the Egremont Green Committee) reported that the Three-Town group (Egremont, Lee, and Sheffield), under the leadership of Stephanie Blumenthal, has been meeting. Their primary focus at the moment is plastic and food waste at the Big Y grocery stores in Lee and Gt Barrington. They plan to approach the store managers with a positive message: "You've been doing good things. How can we help you do more?"

They also plan to write "green" articles for the Berkshire Edge using the name Waste Watchers.

Decarbonizing Initiative and Reducing Food Waste: Juliette and Marj will meet tomorrow to discuss this initiative, which will focus on decarbonizing with regard to energy and other sectors. Bonnie would be interested in joining the group to contribute ideas about composting.

Community Sharing of Items (aka Tool Library): Pat said that in the emailed responses to the energy-saving tips that EGC sent out last fall, community members liked the idea of having a tool library. The NeighborNet site has a page devoted to this, but no items have been listed. We might revive it by entering some tools that we would be comfortable lending. It could then be publicized on NeighborNet and in the town newsletter eco-tips. Sharon suggested that town liability could be an issue, as brought up by Richard Allen in a previous meeting. Would this be an issue if the tool library were to be a NeighborNet project (as opposed to a Town project)? The Council on Aging loans medical devices (e.g., walkers), apparently without repercussions. Pat will talk with Peg Muskrat about the latter, and to Town Counsel Pollard about the whole idea. Ramsdell Library in Housatonic has a tool-lending library – would ours be redundant?

EGC's Holiday Gift to a Child: Most members have paid Marj \$7. This can be done by Venmo or Zelle.

New Business

Environmental Knitting Project: Sharon described her idea of an environment-related community knitting project, patterned after the *Crochet Coral Reef* project, which highlighted the effects of global warming on the oceans. Perhaps community knitters would gather to knit invasive plants and talk about climate change while they knit. Sharon asked us to mull the idea over.

The **next meeting** will tentatively be **Tuesday, March 14, at 4:30.**

The meeting was closed at 5:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Marj Wexler, acting secretary