

*EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 9, 2022.*

*The meeting opened at 5:01 p.m.*

Members present: Pat Konecky (co-chair), Emily Eyre (co-chair), Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow and Marj Wexler.

Minutes of the February 10, 2022, meeting were accepted unanimously.

Discussion was held and consensus reached that the Recycled Art Competition show be postponed to fall 2022.

Sustainability Coordinator Report: Juliette reported that the upcoming DEP additional waste bans will go into effect November 1, 2022, and include textiles and mattresses. Textiles can be placed in the new CMRK collection bins when they arrive. The issue of mattresses may be addressed in two ways: 1) the town simply states it no longer can accept mattresses and encourage residents to have their old mattresses removed by the company which delivers their new mattress or take their old mattress to Barbato's in Hillsdale for a fee 2) The Green Committee encourages the town to adopt a mattress recycling program and charge residents a mattress drop-off fee between the amount of \$25 and \$50. This revenue will go toward the annual hauling and disposal fees of approximately \$2,500 per year.

Publications Update (Egremont Post, Berkshire Edge, Town Newsletter):

For the April 1 Town Newsletter, Marj will submit eco tips, Emily will submit a full-page rain barrel sale piece, and Sharon/Marj will create a "Stay tuned" piece for upcoming initiatives such as green-walks, CMRK collection bins and annual road side clean-up and pizza party for participants to be held on April 23, 2022.

For the Egremont Post, Emily will post a pill bottle collection update asking residents to place their vitamin supplement and mid to large size over-the-counter medicine bottles in the recycle bin at the transfer station. Marj will post the Rain Barrel sale announcement (as well as sharing the information with Alford Assist, Mt. Washington COA, Stephanie Blumenthal's Sheffield group, and Egremont Forum). Sharon spoke of the good will generated by responding to a resident's request for numbers regarding her recent piece on how much of our items actually get recycled.

Berkshire Edge: Sharon discussed the possibility of a future article regarding the New Yorker list of where to send unused items.

Rain Barrel Sale: Emily reported that she received 18 expressions of interest to purchase rain barrels from residents and the committee agreed it was enough to move forward with the rain barrel sale. The Great American Barrel Company has a 24-barrel minimum in order for residents to receive the community discount. Emily will begin promoting the rain barrel sale with the help of Marj.

CMRK collection bin: Marj reported that her proposal for the CMRK collection bin will go to the Select Board on March 15.

Updating Green Committee page on town website: Pat and Marj have been working on updating our page on the Town website. Discussion was held about the current mission statement, which does not appear on the website, as well as updating current information on the website. Sharon suggested uploading interesting photos once the new site has been launched later this spring or summer. A motion was made to authorize Marj to continue this task with the help of committee members, which passed unanimously.

Egremont Recycles Day: Discussion was held regarding the format of Egremont Recycles Day. Participants of the roadside clean-up will bring their collected trash to the town hall parking area where it will be weighed and sorted by EGC members. Ideas were discussed for making the evening pizza party a more robust event. Fun games/prizes for participants were discussed as well as the opportunity for Susan Waite to give an interesting presentation during the pizza party.

Emily reported that the owner of Bizallion (a French market in Great Barrington) reached out to the Green Committee via our Gmail account, asking for suggestion on how he can give 60-gallon metal food import barrels and wood pallets to the public for repurposing. The committee had a few questions, which she will address with the owner.

Sharon initiated a discussion asking if there is value in creating relationships with other groups such as the Garden Club. As the meeting time was fast approaching, the committee agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

*The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom*

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Eyre