

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Members present Pat Konecky (co-chair), Juliette Hass, Sharon Waskow, and Marj Wexler. Members present via Zoom Emily Eyre (co-chair / acting secretary), Richard Allen, Bonnie Greenwood, and guests Mary McGurn and Bonnie Oloff.

Co-chair Pat Konecky opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. She welcomed the group and asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Sustainability Report-Juliette

Juliette gave an update regarding the Decarbonizing Home Initiative Event, which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday July 19, 2023 with Larry Chretien speaking of Green Energy Consumer Alliance. Discussion was held to also include Mark Rabinski as an additional speaker. The committee agreed to use the title "Bringing Climate Action Home: Your Road to Energy Savings and Tax Incentives". It was also suggested promotional materials include a description of the event such as speaker name, what will be discussed, Juliette's net zero house, etc. If we get a strong response, the idea of a second session was discussed. Sharon stressed the importance of how to promote the event. Emily, Robin and possibly Marj or Sharon volunteered to help with promotion, which should begin immediately after the committee's June 13th meeting.

Old Business

Marj learned that CMRK has done no household pick-ups in Egremont, which would suggest that the weight total CMRK provided (5,350 lbs) included only material collected at the town transfer station.

The Recycles Day event was very successful. Approximately 650 pounds were collected. This number is a bit lower but residents are now picking up roadside trash year-round. Sharon stated the event has created a mindset to pick up trash whenever we walk.

Marj reported that Staples now collects all batteries. Juliette spoke with Susan Waite who did not know that Staples had such a huge recycling program and commended them.

Juliette reported that the Select board voted unanimously to have the Discover Books collection kiosk at the transfer station. Discover Books accepts every kind of book except phone books. If books are marketable, they will be sold. Those which are not, are pulped. The swap shop will still have books on the shelf but those that have been there too long, will be put in the Discover Books collection kiosk. Now that these books are not going into the transfer containers, the town will save money on hauling costs.

Sharon reported that she was at the Big Y and was happy to see reusable produce bags. Marj noticed there were 16 displays of the reusable produce bags. Sharon also found on "Chronogram", the piece "How to Shop Without Using Plastic" in cooperation with Berkshire C-Op. We can pass on these tips via Egremont Post etc. It's Easy Being Green has joined "US Reduces" to get businesses to agree to use less plastic. If businesses participate, they get a large green sticker to display near the business entryway. Discussion was held regarding restarting this idea for Egremont (in the past, the committee came up with the "2 Green Thumbs Up" idea). How might we follow up with the stores? Future discussion regarding the following question "How can we help shift our community's mindset?" is needed.

Discussion was held about the Green Committee volunteering to help COA members enroll in the Community Choice municipal aggregation energy program in the fall (possibly September). The committee approved. Bonnie suggested presenting this at one of Wednesday lunches. Juliette will talk to Peg Muskrat about it.

New Business

Pizza party expenses were paid for by the Green Committee town budget.

50 new blue recycling bins will be available for Egremonters. The committee discussed distributing them at the transfer station as it did last year. The committee agreed that this was a good idea, as the transfer

station event was great for visibility for the committee. The committee could promote the decarbonization event, use less plastic, handouts etc. at the same time. The possibility of giving out the annual transfer station stickers during the event was also discussed. Mid-June perhaps the 17th-18th from 10-12 would be a good time to do this.

Additional business:

Pat announced that she will be stepping down as co-chair. It was suggested that committee members take turns taking minutes and the rotation can be done alphabetically by last name. At the end of each meeting, we can determine whose turn it is. Bonnie Greenwood will take minutes at the next meeting.

The next meeting will tentatively be Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 5: 51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Eyre, acting secretary