

## EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes June 8, 2022

*The meeting opened at 4:36 at the Pavilion at French Park. Present were Emily Eyre (Co-Chair), Robin Goldberg, Sharon Waskow, Marj Wexler*

Minutes of the 5/11/22 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Sustainability coordinator:** No report today.

### Old Business

**LED lightbulbs:** LED lightbulbs contain electronics and metals that should not go into the trash. Marj reported that the state appears not to be interested in recycling them, but Home Depot does collect them. The committee agreed that if a box could be placed in the Town Hall's Pick-Up and Drop-Off Area, Marj would pick them up and find someone to take them to Home Depot. It was noted that the bulbs last a long time, so there wouldn't be many.

**Rain barrel update:** Emily reported that 48 barrels were distributed on June 4. Three towns participated in addition to Egremont: Alford, Sheffield, Mt Washington. TGARB told Emily that some towns add \$5 or \$10 to the price to supplement their budget. If there is sufficient interest next year and we do this again, we voted to increase the price by \$5.

**Publishing:** For the July 1 Town newsletter, Emily will report on the rain barrel sale, Sharon will write about "Plastic-Free July," and Marj will report on the road-side clean-up in April. Marj will collate these three mini-articles for the EGC submission.

**Bittersweet Block Party:** Sharon met with Juliette Haas and Abby McKee. They decided to take a low-key approach to the bittersweet problem on our roads. Juliette will start by asking a dozen of her neighbors if they would help her attack it (if they don't want to cut, she'll ask them for permission to cut the bittersweet on the road in front of their property). Before-and-after photos will be taken to raise awareness and enthusiasm via the Town newsletter and EgremontPost, and with an eye toward an Edge article.

**Habitat Revitalization Speaker:** Sharon discussed inviting Desirée Narango to speak on habitat revitalization—specifically, on seeing your yard as a habitat and thereby helping insects, the climate, and Earth. This could be a joint event with the Garden Club and the Land Trust (Abby McKee is in both), and it might be held at April Hill. The \$250 that Narango charges could be shared (EGC now has a budget of \$381, thanks to Pat Konecky). The committee voted to contribute funds.

### New Business

**EPA Clean School Grants:** Emily reported that, in conjunction with the Mass. Clean Energy Center (CEC), the EPA is offering a grant to help purchase electric and low-emission school buses. Robin will talk with School Board member Jim DiPisa about this.

**Mass Fleet Advisory Services Program:** This program, in conjunction with National Grid, aims to convert town vehicles (police, highway, buildings/grounds) to EVs. Juliette's meeting with these departments is June 22, with NatGrid presenting.

**Plastic-Free July:** Sharon wondered about repeating the October (2019) Plastic Reduction Challenge. Discussion, no conclusion. Last week, Colorado's governor signed an EPR bill, making Colorado the third state to pass an extended producer responsibility law for packaging.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50. No meeting is planned for July or August. We will schedule one for September.

Submitted by Marj Wexler