

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2023

Attendees: Members: Emily Eyre (chair) Sharon Waskow, Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler, and Bonnie Greenwood. Guest: Mary McGurn on zoom.

Chair Emily Eyre opened the meeting at 4:36. She welcomed the group and asked for a motion to approve the July 11 minutes. Marj had sent small corrections. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Sustainability Report: Juliette reported that a Discover Book bin is now at Transfer Station and that it is already full. A good number of books were also put in the Discover Book truck that came to Town Hall last Saturday. A question was raised about whether magazines should be bound before placing them in the bin. Juliette said it's helpful but not required. The company takes every kind of printed material – old year books, scientific journals, law books, and computer manuals, which they donate and resell for profit. No phone books though.

Follow-up of July 19th event: Decarbonizing Your Home: Emily reported on the upside that there were 25 attendees at the event and 41 signed up for the webinar. In-person attendees reported satisfaction with the information and presentation. On the downside, there were technical difficulties with sound and camera placement, so a recording was not made by the host, Green Energy Consumers Alliance.

To compensate for the technical difficulties in presenting a hybrid event, Juliette suggested a reprise of the presentation in the fall/winter. The Green Energy Consumers Alliance group has agreed. This time the presentation will be only on Zoom.

Juliette mentioned that the links on Green Energy Consumers Alliance's webpage are excellent especially pertaining to electric cars. Sharon asked if the town has a person who knows how to run a webinar. Mary answered, no the town does not have a webinar license. After a bit more back and forth on the challenges of presenting a hybrid meeting Juliette stated she felt that in the future, the Green Committee should offer either in-person meetings or webinars.

Juliette suggested we send out an email telling people we regret we couldn't record. We will do the presentation again in the future.

Other Business: Egremont Cultural Arts Grant: Barbara Kalish's idea "Art from Trash." Juliette described the grant elements: Submit application in September, with a very specific description of project, date, where held, theme, and cost. The Alford-Egremont Cultural Council gets together and decides. She said that it is not hard to do and that the grant needs to express who would receive benefit from the project. Also, if the grant involves artists, what is the money for? Would it be a contest? Some other event? How would the Green Committee promote and support this? Juliette wanted to know what Barbara's idea was and how she would spend the money. Mary suggested that we invite Barbara to a meeting and the committee agreed to do so.

Pill bottle collection: Emily talked to Steve Ellis at the Springfield MRF to ask about recycling pill bottles. He answered that containers 3 inches and smaller fall through the sorting mechanism and end up in the trash. Therefore, small pill bottles should go in the collection at

Town Hall. Marj suggested a sign saying "4 inches and under" be put on the pill collection box and Emily suggested that a ruler or graphic showing 4 inches be included in the sign to communicate that to the town.

CMRK home pickup: Marj brought up that people may not know about it. Appliances, sports equipment, anything that can be bagged or boxed up. CMRK will take it. Label boxes and bags. Emily will promote it. The website lists what they pick up. Marj will ask if CMRK takes skis and ski boots.

Shave the Peak? Emily brought up whether the Green Committee should promote Shave the Peak, an initiative put out by the Green Energy Consumers Alliance to decrease the burning of fossil fuels on very hot days. Shave the Peak advises people to not run big appliances on very hot days from 4:00 to 8:00, and to avoid using dishwashers, dryers, and washing machines when the temperature is above 85. Juliette commented that too many behavior change messages can be overkill and that Shave the Peak is relevant only now in the summer. Emily asked to clarify what is overkill in messaging - once a week, twice a month- no more than that?

The group agreed not to meet in August.
The next meeting is on September 12.
Motion to close received a unanimous vote.
Minutes submitted by Sharon Waskow