

## EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE

Minutes July 27, 2022

*The meeting opened at 4:32 at the Pavilion at French Park. Present were Emily Eyre (Co-Chair), Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow, Marj Wexler, and guest Peg McDonough*

Minutes of the 6/8/22 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Municipal EV Charging Station(s):** Emily welcomed Peg McDonough, who was hired by the town last year to help administer the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. ARPA is aimed at infrastructure, with a focus on President Biden's energy agenda. Peg hopes to write a Green Communities grant to fund EV charging stations in Egremont, both for our fleet of municipal vehicles and for the public, but that won't happen until after NatGrid completes an analysis of our vehicle use. A goal is to have universal chargers. A big issue is location: Where would they get the most use? Egremonters with EVs are likely to install their own private charging stations.

National Grid is encouraging conversion of the town's fleet of municipal vehicles (including highway, police, fire, maintenance) to EVs. This would be done as vehicles are retired, and as models become available (particularly for the PD). Egremont has 24 vehicles that would qualify.

Peg will need the EGC to do the follow-up work after she applies for grants. Members voted to do so. She's working on an inventory, due by early August, and in early September she will discuss with NatGrid their grant. Peg will keep Pat Konecky and Juliette in the loop.

**Sustainability Report:** In her report to the Selectboard, Juliette showed that the overall tonnage and associated hauling and disposal fees for MSW (trash), bottles and cans, and paper were down \$11,164 from the previous fiscal year (\$72,113 for FY21, \$60,949 for FY22). However, the hauler is now imposing a fuel surcharge for each haul: an additional \$2327 in just four months, which could add an additional \$7,000 per year. In FY22, the MSW is around 360 tons, which is lower than the previous year. Brief discussion about why that is – perhaps some part-time residents are spending more time elsewhere than they did during high-covid season.

### New Business

**Lee's Earth Day in September:** After discussion, Emily will let Peter Hoffman know that we won't be participating.

**Environmentalist Dave Rejeski:** Dave is an Egremonter with expertise in environmental law and an interest in mitigating and adapting to climate change. We will invite him to a Zoom meeting in September. Sharon has created a list of 10 questions related to his work and how we (as individuals and as a committee) could help reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), as well as what we should know about climate change.

### Old Business

**CMRK:** Marj reported that, in Q2, 963 pounds of clothing and fabrics was collected in the blue CMRK bins at the Transfer Station, so the town received a check for \$67.41.

**Published Pieces:** None at the moment.

**Bittersweet Brigade Update:** Juliette reported that her idea of attacking the bittersweet on Baldwin Hill East was excessively ambitious. She will focus on one tree at a time, posting before & after photos and announcing what tree will be next.

**Habitat Revitalization:** Desirée Narango, who Sharon and Abby McKee were hoping would speak at a joint gathering of the Green Committee and the Garden Club, has moved away. Sharon and Abby will continue to look for the right speaker.

**Other:** Emily continues to look for ways to involve more people in our work – we have good ideas but limited human power. Our ongoing concerns about restaurant waste might benefit from microvolunteerism: an interested citizen joining us for a limited project for a limited time. For example, perhaps someone with Survey Monkey skills could help conduct a survey. We will keep thinking about how to tap into the skills and time of the community.

Sharon watched a webinar about chemicals in plastics. She spoke with co-owner Matt Masiero at Guido's about getting rid of all plastic. They would really like to, but how?

The Green Committee can no longer sell compostable tableware. We have been buying it tax-free from Brigham's and selling it at our cost, but we should have added tax. However, compostable tableware is not as hard to find now as it was when we started this project.

*Meeting adjourned at 5:32.* Emily will email members to see if Tuesday, Sept 13, will work.

Submitted by Marj Wexler