

## Egremont Green Committee Zoom meeting minutes, October 4, 2022

Attendees: Emily Eyre, Pat Konecky, Sharon Waskow, Juliette Haas, Richard Allen, and Marj Wexler.

Meeting began at 4:34 p.m.

Acceptance of September 13, 2022, minutes: Sharon moved to approve and minutes were approved unanimously.

### Sustainability Report - Juliette

1. Update on mattress recycling - town is going to start a mattress collection program. The Selectboard will sign a contract with Tough Stuff Recycling. There will be a storage pod at the transfer station for receiving mattresses at \$40 per unit (any size mattress or box spring). Tough Stuff Recycling will also do home pick up for \$50 a unit. They will be available for this once per month. Juliette will begin a marketing campaign to inform the community about this. Emily suggested that signage at the drop-off site will be good publicity about the program. In response to Richard's question, Juliette noted that 95% of the material will be recycled. Sharon asked who gets the money and how payments will be made. Juliette noted that people will go to the transfer station attendant who will take the money and open the container. It may be possible to pay online and present a receipt at the site. Tough Stuff is working with multiple towns in Berkshire County and using Pittsfield as a collection hub. Egremont generally disposes of about 35 mattresses per year.
2. Textile recycling - Our partnership with CMRK allows us to now meet the new textile disposal ban.
3. Upcoming winter energy rates - Selectboard asked today if we can reach out to residents about pending increases in electricity and energy costs and conservation efforts that can help keep minimize usage and costs. The BOS also asked that we provide information about assistance in bill paying. It was agreed that this fits into the decarbonization project that the EGC is initiating.

### Update Re: Municipal EV Charging Stations and EV town fleet - Emily

1. Earlier in the week, Emily asked Peg McDonough if she has anything to share with the committee. Peg reported that the census of town vehicles was submitted in mid September. A draft of the analysis of the fleet along with information on possible EV substitutes, and recommendations for the timing of purchases, should be available in mid October. This information will be presented to the Selectboard, after which we will probably begin planning charging station locations for both the fleet and the public.

### Decarbonizing Home Initiative: Emily

1. Emily discovered that the local professional film maker would not be able to work with us to provide videos of people's decarbonization experiences, as hoped. Barbara Kalish suggested to Emily that we use our iPhones for recording. We might also be able to find

film makers at Simon's Rock. Pat suggested we contact Ben Hillman. Emily added that we'd want interview questions to lead speakers to present interesting topics.

2. After our last meeting, Juliette asked our municipal rep at National Grid and our Green Communities rep at DOER about what energy reduction assistance is available in the new Federal Inflation Reduction Act. Both agreed that more information/details will be available in the next few months. Juliette asked for a volunteer to put together a resource list for money-saving tips that could be used for Egremont Posts or in the Newsletter, or a brochure. Sharon noted that this should be the work of a committee.
3. Pat mentioned the Cape Cod Coalition's efforts in decarbonization and offered to reach out to them and share information. She noted that on 10/28 the Coalition is presenting a virtual Net Zero Conference. Information from 350MA and the Cape Cod Coalition revealed that several towns have embarked on similar efforts. Pat will continue outreach with both. Sharon shared a graphic about the meaning of carbon footprint.
4. Emily talked about the challenge of using the EPA carbon footprint calculator, and Juliette suggested that the difficulty may make this prohibitive. We might try another calculator but it is difficult to analyze this in a way that's apples to apples.
5. Juliette suggested that for one month we send out an energy-saving tip each day - an Egremont Green Committee carbon-reduction challenge, with tips for saving money this winter. We might send this on NeighborNet. Juliette suggested a Facebook page. Emily also suggested posting info at post offices, etc.
6. We agreed to aim to start sending daily tips on November 1. Until then we need to write the intro, write the tips, and post the tips. Emily will post the tips. Pat and Sharon will begin compiling the list. Committee members are invited to share ideas. Emily noted that there should be an intro sentence with each daily tip and that tips should be numbered and listed on our website. The list and intro should be reviewed by the committee.

#### New Business:

##### PFAS contamination: Sharon

1. Sharon briefly described PFAS contamination, noting that it is prevalent in food, clothes, and makeup. She recently interviewed a scientist from Columbia University on this topic who provided data, resources, and recommendations. She asked if the EGC would like to disseminate this info to the community. Juliette noted that the Egremont Board of Health has also started a discussion about testing well water and disseminating information about PFAS in the community. It was agreed that the EGC could partner with or support efforts of the Egremont Board of Health. Richard shared information found online about PFAS.

Next meetings: October 25th, 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, November 15th.

Meeting concluded at: 5:55 p.m.