

February 24, 2020 Sustainability Meeting
Bristol Town Hall

Attendees: Nancy Dowey, Chair, Brittany Overton, Vice Chair, Lauren Therriault, Elsa McConalogue, Joe Caristi, Bailey Caristi, Herb D'Arcy, and Karen Boyd.

Meeting called to order by Nancy Dowey at 6:30pm.

Karen Boyd introduced herself. Herb D'Arcy spoke about NRLA and introduced himself. Joe Caristi introduced himself as well.

2018 community survey said strong support for recycling.

Discussion about how to share information, Google Drive. Brittany will create the document for members to add to.

Subcommittees were discussed as well as rules for communicating between members.

Herb asked about discussions about renewable energy.

Karen asked about meeting with local restaurants, reaching out to discuss ways we can help them be more sustainable. Eversource to talk about lighting. RISE (Rhode Island Sus..Energy?) will come to your house to assess what you need.

Nancy brought up PAREI (plymouth area renewable energy initiative)

Herb brought up meeting with Fredenburg to talk about what they are doing. Nancy talked about Hannaford and food waste. Brittany mentioned putting signs above the produce bags, starting with incentives, 3% off your purchase when using reusable bags.

Joe said we could give ratings or logos, "Bristol Green Company."

Last meeting was Recycling and Composting subcommittees.

Elsa said subcommittees can meet via video meetings.

Herb said he would like to gather information about Hannaford and Freudenburg. Ask about food waste at Hannaford, get an estimate of tonnage.

Joe said there is money in the upcoming budget for recycling. Cardboard trailers are full by noon. Community wants to recycle. Could we do something with scrap metal? Focus on things with a revenue stream (scrap metal, tin cans?) to get started.

Figure out the current state, get a baseline from companies and transfer stations.

Kathleen Firth, writes for Newfound Voice. Ask her to write something...or have a column in it.

Think of a name for the group, a good acronym. Then start getting the message out.

Composting possibilities discussed. Small or large scale. Call Lebanon and ask them how their recycling project went. Try to inspire the public to compost at home, see the impact on the tonnage of garbage at the transfer station. Track monthly cost of garbage going out, see if it goes down. Community places to drop off compost.

Community garden near the river wants a compost as well.

New Chinese food restaurant is using some good practices for sustainability. Herb will talk to them.

Ask Eversource to come to the local business to meet with them.

When to get our message out? Old Home Days, Elsa said High School Musicals or events at NRHS.

Elsa- asked at High School, there is a recycling dumpster at NRHS. She wants to meet with the Student Council to get on recycling and composting for the greenhouse and garden behind the school. Sustainability club at NRHS? Ask for a composting pod company to donate one to NRHS. Ask Paul H and Stacy B.

Educating the public about new/old businesses. Column in Newfound Landing.

"Grand Station." Can sign up for free newsletter and see all the grants every week.

EPA has a newsletter. Brittany will send e-mails to people if she finds a grant that applies to something of interest.

Think about ideas for Earth Day.

Action Items:

Nancy- contact Eversource, Kathleen, meet with Ashland.

Elsa- will talk to Mr. Horiis about composting and recycling at NRHS

Herb- talk to Freudenburg and Hannaford and restaurants.

Brittany- look at grants, start Google Doc for members to add to.

Joe- find out how much money is in the budget for transfer station and ask about

Lauren- Think of names for the group and start a list of ideas for educating the community.

Next Meeting March 11th at 6:30 at the Library.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Brittay seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by: Lauren Therriault, Secretary.