

Meeting Minutes SC January 11, 2021  
Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Lauren Therriault, Nancy Dowey, Brittany Overton, Jamie Bemis, Herb D'Arcy, Janet Metcalf, Donna Worthen, Paul Bemis.

Meeting called to order. Janet moved to approved minutes and Jamie seconded. Meeting minutes were approved from December meeting unanimously.

Paul Bemis from Energy Committee came to share ideas. Wants to get a solar array installed at the wastewater treatment facility. Visible, saves us money. He needs to get it approved by town to enter into an agreement with Barrington Power. They own the equipment, we just buy the power and there will be power left over. Paul thinks the Select Board will approve it this year, after a study was done this year. Last year they were not on board. Most viable option is power purchase agreement with a smaller array. For 25 years. We consume all of the power that the array produces. Cash positive in the first year. Probably the only thing that saves money at the town meeting. Janet wondered why the Select Board didn't approve it last year. Paul says there were different plans for a bigger array and they didn't want to present it at town meeting yet. Janet wondered if there is a cost associated with it. Paul said no cost, more changing assumptions or educating. Possibility to add a battery to it, which would increase the sustainability of it. Reducing carbon footprint as well. Would offer a place to go if the power was out for a long time for town. 25 year agreement to do this. Needs town approval. Will be introduced as a warrant article to get town to agree to the 25 year agreement. If no approval from the Select Board he'd need 25 signatures. There is a setup the same as what this would be in Conway NH.

Herb said Don M has recently emailed him and said that things are looking good for the Recycling Warrant article.

Janet said the select board still hasn't had their final say on all the warrant articles. She wants to endorse the Energy Committee. Proposes endorsing. Seconded by Brittany. Education for town so they'll be on board. Teach the skeptics about how much we can save. Jamie wants to host tours, ribbon cutting, outreach or events for it when it opens. Paul's education ideas: make a video about the project, (have us help him promote it), FAQ updated on website, write about it to teach people. Lifespan....Barrington Power will be responsible for all aspects of it. Brittany would like to put an op ed in the Newfound Landing come late February. If we write it it's from a different perspective than Paul has, so we'll do it. Britt wonders what happens if in 15 years power prices drop significantly. Paul says that since the WWTF is using the power it will save more money and electricity would have to drop by 3 times the rate it is now in order for it to cost us money. Video is not done yet. Janet wants to talk about Locally Produced and what the topic will be then. Janet also recommended that Paul get in touch with Dawna for the new newspaper Lake Life. Jamie said she can condense something and link it in the newsletter if Paul writes something for the Energy Committee website.

Motion to support Energy Committee with Solar Array at WWTF made by Janet, seconded by Brittany.. Unanimously approved.

Britt went over what has happened so far with the car charging stations. We do not need a warrant article to make this happen. Wait until after town meeting? Britt is looking for a grant through TD Bank. Minimal is \$15,000. Values would align. Hopefully wouldn't cost money, and could make the town money? Paul said Drew Drummand was working with the energy committee. Paul will forward Britt the contact info. Economic development discussion with Drew last year.

Jamie wants to talk about Community Power. Henry Herndon and Paul are both available February 18th for a community discussion about this. Separate from Locally Produced. Janet wonders if we're crowding the calendar if we do a lot of presentations. Should we give Community Power it's own spotlight? 2022 will be the year for Community Power. Going to take a whole year to explain this to the town.

Zero Waste guide: haven't written statement yet. One sentence of what it is and one of how to apply for it.

Recycling Committee: Herb said they are on hold, strong assurance from Don. Waiting for the meeting, prepared stuff. Don wants to get together.

Locally produced: Jan is working on March video "Let's Talk Trash". Herb wonders about COVID protocols for Town Meeting. Gym at high school? Spread everyone out. Paul would donate some clean curtains for the town meeting. Nancy wants to wait until closer to the Town Meeting to reach out and approach people. Janet wants to make a flyer/pamphlet for recycling and hand it out. Nancy wants to strategize at the February meeting. Janet wants to ask all members to bring ideas for how to get this out to the community. One page solar one page recycling, double sided. Energy and Recycling committees send something to Jamie to write a flyer.

Buy Nothing: get more people to join. If you're in you can submit local people to be in the group.

Earth Day: Lauren is working with school to get a program at school going. Mural idea? Nancy said this is going to be a lot more work than we originally thought. Very complicated. Janet said murals are a long term project. Content would be helpful for our input. Lauren thinks that our focus is better put somewhere else. Pollinator Pathways? Too big of a project to take on? Nancy is doing a webinar tomorrow about it. Maybe do something on a smaller scale? She will look into it more. Donna says it is a lot of information. Donna and Lauren have applied for their yards to be on the pathways website. Jamie said maybe taking some of the ideas of the PP and making it smaller scale. Incorporate that into Earth Day. Donna said you can apply to buy a pollinator pathway sticker. Britt has seen signs at her neighbors house about wildlife sanctuaries. Donna doesn't want to compete. Great to raise awareness. Donna wants to make a list of native plants for NH.

Community Garden: Brittany had talked to Lisa from Plymouth and we will have a meeting on January 21st. Seedlings will be started at BHVS and given to families. What happens if we don't get it going this year. What will happen? COVID is still happening. Education piece is what's going to be hard. Group events challenging

Herb left to eat.

Janet says she volunteered to take on Community Garden. Lots of motion already in play on this. She's still worried about COVID in the spring and what will need to happen in the spring. Britt said they could always use more help.

Film screening? Postpone it and focus on the book group. Reach out to one person who is not in the committee who signed up for the film screening.

Next meeting is February 8th at 6:30. Locally Produced will be Feb 21st for Janet's talk. Monday Feb 15th for Regenerative Reads.

Jamie said she talked to Dawna about getting things promoted in the Lake Life by 17th of month before.

Motion to adjourn made 8:02pm by Britt and Seconded by Jamie.

Motion to

Action Items:

Lauren: write a statement about zero waste guide.

Jamie: will mock up flyers for town meeting. Jamie will let Dawna know about Feb Events.

Britt: Reach out to community member who signed up for movie screening and urge her to join the book club.