

Sustainability Committee
November 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom

Attendees: Nancy Dowey, Brittany Overton, Lauren Therriault, Jamie Bemis, Herb D Arcy Donna Worthen, and Jan Metcalf.

Meeting started at 6:32 pm.

Donna W. introduced to the group as the newest member. Happy to have her joining us.

Jan made a motion to approve meeting minutes from last time. Seconded by Britt. All in favor except Donna who abstained.

Recycling committee update: Holding pattern since meeting with Don Milbrand Waiting to firm up quotes on things needed for the proposal and the meeting in December at Select Board to approve the plan. Herb said he saw Mark B at the transfer station and he is waiting for a quote about a building. A lot of the money is hopefully going to come from reserve funds so it won't be a big tax burden to town members. Nancy wonders what the building will be used for once we move to Alexandria. Herb says storage. Janet says that Bristol had tried to be part of a regional recycling plan several years ago and that fell through so let's keep moving forward in Bristol instead of waiting to see what happens. Janet will send an update to Donna about recycling to get her up to speed on the work they have been doing. Can paper be removed from dog food cans and have it considered scrap metal? Mark says they won't take steel cans because they aren't cleaned well and attract rodents. Britt heard Mark say something about collecting steel cans. Janet will ask Mark about that. Let the town know so we can save money on cans. Campaign about it?

Communication: Jamie has been doing the newsletter. Keep sharing upcoming events to add to the list. Trying to figure out how to get people to subscribe. Jamie will also take quotes, ideas, photos etc from anyone. Plan for March Newsletter to go out before the Town Meeting and talk it up.

Met with Paige Wilson and she's excited to work with us. She'll be sending things to us. Henry Hernden with Community Power; energy consumers to gather energy and then get a better price and work together to save money for certain projects. Economics of solar power in NH work at this time, so he thinks the answer is Community Power. This could be/should be an education initiative. He would be happy to do a round table or online chat about this with town. Lebanon and Hanover are already planning about this, Jaimie thinks we should ask them about their experience and learn from them. Henry has a lot of educational materials and a video about it. Join a committee meeting to explain it to us and then have him do a Locally Produced chat with the community. When should we have him? December or skip December?

Britt will put together videos/ a collection of videos for December. Send her videos to compile. Ask Henry to do January Locally Produced.

Book club: Aldo Leopold, Sand County Almanac. Start after the holidays and the book starts in January narratively too. Discussion guides online. Meet 3 times, once a month for 3 months. How to advertise it? The PDF is online, only 5 copies in NH library program. Jamie said she will buy some copies and donate to the library. Jamie will do a sign up on google forms. January 21st will be the kick off. Need a name for the group, book puns.

Film Screening in January. License through library with PBS. Inventing Tomorrow; Movie about Youth Activism. Britt has reached out to principal, Paul Hoiris. He has forwarded it to teachers, and comes with premade lesson plans. How to promote this? Pretend it's in person, watch film then discuss it right after? Or have people watch it on their own time, show a 5 minute clip to remind everyone then discuss it. Promote in December, will give people time to watch it over the holidays. Monday or Thursday? Britt thinks Thursday would be a better option to get more people. Thursday January 14th. Register for community forums to get link sent to them. Jamie will do google form for this sign up too. All ages welcome!

Share these events with Paige to spread the word.

Charging Stations: AMC Cardigan Lodge, during peak months (September) 3-4 days out of the week someone is using the charging station. 2 ports, not sure if they charge different kinds of cars or not. Dunkin Donuts in Ashland; Tesla one only charges Tesla vehicles. Only DD in New England with a car charging station. Nik put Britt in touch with the Land Use Officer since it's public land. Nik said Town was not in favor of a charging port on town property. Paul Bemis is interested in this idea. Need a plan and idea for how to approach this, explain it to Select Board to get buy in. What other towns have car charging stations sponsored by? There are public libraries in New England with charging stations. Do our homework, show need and interest. Cost involved....can it generate money? Will it be grant funded? Collaborate with the Energy Committee. Library trustees meeting on Thursday that Britt will bring it up at. Apply for TD bank grant for the station. Revenue generator. Puts us on the map and joined with other forward thinking towns in the state.

Annual meeting with the Energy Committee and Sustainability Committee. Or every six months? Ask them to come to January Meeting.

Herb left to eat lobster.

Britt emailed Nik about Community Garden. Jane White and Lorna Platts, two people involved in it. Nik needs someone else to take this over. Should we bring all the people together from last year? Have 2 plans: how to make it work this year with COVID-19, plan B with last minute changes. Have a meeting about it in February. Early Feb. Donna asked about how far along the plan is. 8 raised beds next to Pemi Bristol Trails. Whole Village in Plymouth will do cooking demonstrations. Pasquaney Garden club will do presentation about how to garden. Applications

have been created. Bristol Community Services, TTCC and Mid State Health reach out to people who they think would make good use of the plots. Faucet with hoses and pump will be available for community garden. "Every Garden Matters" through PARIE in Plymouth. Reach out to them?

Zero Waste Guide: How to add business? Can they apply? Map of businesses with zero waste things to purchase. Idea is to promote low impact/zero waste buying. Nancy is worried that businesses will get mad they were not included on the list. Make parameters to show how the places were added. Crowd sourced? Way to submit feedback or apply to be on it.

Farmers network of composting or pig food/scraps for animals you can drop off if you don't have a spot to put them. Newfound Lake Community FB page. Buy Nothing Group.

Nancy is interested in composting and talking to Hannaford about their recycling. Start with an idea then bring a loose proposal. Grant for bins? What's our goal for composting promotion? Think of a goal and go backwards. Ask businesses to fill out a survey? Let them know answers will benefit them not penalize them. 22% of discarded waste is food waste. Composting campaign in the spring. Earth day. Feature tips on reducing food waste. 30 day challenge? Terracycle idea and local businesses taking items.

Britt's video about food packaging talk is November 30th. Good book group about Animal Vegetable Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver, hoping people from that group will come to the discussion.

Next meeting is December 14th at 6:30.

Motion to adjourn made by Britt and seconded by Jaimie. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.