

ERC Minutes for Sept 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

Members Present: Lauren Jordan, Diane Lamson, Sarah Kaplinger, Doug Smith, Dustin Ward (SB Liasson) All members introduced themselves to visitor Kyla Viger who hopes to join the committee

1.Approval of August Minutes - Sarah motioned to accept minutes as written, seconded by Doug. Unanimously approved with no changes

2.UPDATES:

Parks and Rec Sarah was not present to provide any updates

Community Fair Debriefing: Overall, members felt the booth was well received by the public. There was a brief discussion on how to address the hesitation of people to enter into the tent. Location of the ERC booth was discussed, with possibly requesting a different space next year

Collaboration with BLING: Julie Fralich has asked the ERC to consider co-hosting a presentation on the subject of a Scenic Assessment in New Gloucester. Lauren will meet with Julie for more details.

ERC Member update: Noreen Williams has resigned effective 9/1/23. This leaves 3 openings. Kyla Viger will be applying for a position. Dustin suggested she meet the 9/12 application deadline in order to be on the agenda for 9/18.

3.Town Waste/Recycling Next Steps Lauren gave a summary of what the ERC has done so far regarding the town's recycling practices.

The take-away from the workshop with the selectboard and Maine Waste to Energy representative is as follows:

- Most items sorted for recycling are actually incinerated at MWtoE

- NG sorts/separates trash because it is better for the transfer station equipment

- The town staff at the transfer station stays informed on prices of recycle material

- More effort might be directed at long-term solutions especially reducing plastic use as opposed to what to do with the used plastic

- ERC can take action in educating the public on current practices and how they can reduce plastics that either get incinerated or landfilled

- The transfer station staff would like to buy a baler. Could ERC be involved in that effort

Next steps: Diane and Lauren will plan to meet with the transfer station staff to discuss the above ideas.

4.Community Resilience Partnership: Next Steps - To apply to enroll in the state partnership program which will then make us eligible for grant money for specific projects. Lauren and Doug will attend the 9/18 Select Board meeting to update the board members on where the ERC stands in the process, the need to get the resolution drafted, and ask for questions and input. Doug and Sarah will put together the presentation for the select board.

5.New Business

Garden: The committee approved unanimously to request \$100 funds from our budget to purchase native perennial plants for the fairground garden. Diane will go to the town office to request a check, and will select and purchase the plants from Donna's Greenhouse. Planting date to be determined.

Dark Sky Program: NG Resident Mikayla McGregor reached out to ERC SB liaison about New Gloucester becoming a registered Dark Sky Community. The committee members agreed this is a relevant and worthy project and will reach out to Mikayla for more information

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Next meeting date OCT 5, 2023 at 5:30pm

Respectively submitted by Diane Lamson, Secretary ERC