

ERC Minutes for Jan 4, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Jordan, Diane Lamson, Sarah Kaplinger, Mike Brakey

1. APPROVAL OF DEC 2023 MINUTES - Sarah motioned to accept minutes as written, seconded by Mike, minutes were unanimously approved with no changes

2. UPDATES: Parks and Rec Sarah was not present to report

3. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP: The state accepted the New Gloucester application for enrollment in the CRP program. The deadline for this round grant money (up to \$50,000) is March 31. ERC's next step is to apply for a grant that supports one of the areas identified in preliminary information gathering. The Town manager sent info regarding available grant money. No decisions were made as Doug was absent and discussion was tabled until a later date. Doug will write an article for NGX announcing NG's acceptance into CRP

4. GARDENING CLASS IN JANUARY Date was set for Sunday, January 28 from 1-2pm in the community building. Lauren will confirm availability. Diane will send information to Lauren who will create a flyer to be shared through NGX and if necessary in posters at the library, etc. After short discussion it was decided to cap the number of spots to 15. There is no fee. Diane will purchase all supplies and be refunded through ERC budget money at a later date.

5. CORCORAN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (CES) At a recent meeting, the select board signed a one year contract with CES for hauling and recycling plastics and papers from the town transfer station. Lauren will write an article for NGX

6. ERC SOCIAL MEDIA/NGX ARTICLES: For the immediate future articles planned are:

1. Lauren's piece on CES/recycling
2. Doug's piece on CRP
3. Lauren will write up a summary of the Apparel Impact bin numbers to date, promoting usage by community
4. Alternatives to plastic

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Diane will write the annual report due JAN 31 and submit to Sharlene
- B. Lauren sent a link to members for an online lunch presentation by Maine Conservation Voters for Friday, noon. Topic is on Mis/Disinformation on Climate Change
- C. Mike will be doing a presentation on the energy crisis and his own efforts to make energy work for him, what people can do to mitigate the effects of periodic energy crisis costs .
- D. Town planner Kathy Tombarelli spoke briefly on the 100 acre forest in the upper village area that the town is considering selling. The land is not suitable for solar development

Next meeting date February 1 at 5:30pm

Respectively submitted by Diane Lamson, Secretary ERC