

Minutes of Environmental Resources Committee April 7, 2022

Present: Doug Smith, Diane Lamson, Alicia Howes, Sarah Rodriques, Lauren Jordan, Paul Larivee

Minutes of March 2022 were approved with no changes.

Parks & Rec: (Sarah)

Working with Gray on 'Memo of Understanding' for future programming

Climate Action/Resilience Partnership - Discussion on supporting Rachel Lyn Rumson or a collaboration with the Town of Gray. Doug will ask Rachel Lyn to attend next month's meeting to help us create a brief document outlining the next steps of the process to present to the Select Board.

Composting Bins Project - Paul Larivee and Sarah

This program was set up to offer \$55 bins to interested residents at a cost of \$35. ERC had committed to offset the \$20 per bin from the available budget for a total of \$600. In the end, the Town Manager did not approve these funds. The concern was to the appropriate use of the ERC budget money. Since 30 people had already registered for the bins and submitted checks for their portion, two anonymous donors stepped up to cover the \$600 committed by the ERC and will pay that money directly to the Maine Recovery Resource Association.

In the future, ERC will consider fundraising efforts in order to offer programs like this, meant to encourage reducing the amount of waste that gets processed by the transfer station and eventually goes to the landfills.

Apparel Impact Bin (Lauren)

Since the January installation, the bin has collected 660lbs of donations

Town Solar Project - update, process, timeline

The town provided ERC with utility bills for 2020, which ERC will forward to the consultant from Competitive Energy Services for evaluation.

Doug is in contact with Ann Gass of Gray regarding possible collaboration on a Climate Action Plan. Doug will provide a summary of the plan to Paul Larivee.

ERC target is to have a finalized recommendation in June to present to Select Board in July

Invasive Plant Presentation Summary (Alicia)

A presentation by HIPP (Harpwell Invasive Plant Project) was held on Thursday, March 10 at the meeting house. While no one from the public was in attendance, the event was videotaped for future viewing. As there is interest, and a need, for NG to give attention to invasive plants, it was suggested ERC invite the town's Forester, Rob Cotiaux, to the next meeting to discuss the issue and possible educational events for the public. Diane will contact him.

Lower Village Project with RRCT and Community Group (Sarah)

The group is waiting for CMP and the Town to work out details of the transfer of ownership of the Grange Hall lot. This will allow for more informed discussion/planning of possible public access points to the large parcel of land in question

ERC Earth Day Collaboration: The Gray Resiliency Committee has invited ERC/ NG to join in clean up efforts for the event. People are asked to identify any area that needs attention, participate in clean up and post in social media to spread the word.

Library Garden Workshop Series/Seed Giveaway: ERC will donate some seed packets for the first session of the workshop on Sunday Apr 10. Lauren will speak with the librarian to set a date in the near future for the ERC seed giveaway event.

Public Garden (Alicia)

Alicia will contact the GNG cheerleaders who have helped with clean up in the past to set a date for spring cleanup. She will also install a simple water source for the pollinator garden. Sarah will display the Pollinator Garden Certificate in the kiosk at the fairgrounds.

New Business:

Fundraisers: Sarah will clarify the process and approval for ERC to have a fundraising account

Next meeting date May 5, 2022 at 5:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectively submitted by Diane Lamson, Secretary ERC