

Minutes of Environmental Resources Committee - Dec 2, 2021

Present: Doug Smith, Diane Lamson, Sarah Rodrigues, Lauren Jordan, Laura Fralich, Dick Allen, Alicia Howes

Meeting came to order at 5:30 pm

November meeting minutes were approved

Apparel Impact Bins - Lauren

Decision made to delay installation until January 8th so that representatives from ERC can be present to offer information to community members to ensure bins are used appropriately. Sarah will ask transfer station staff if we can be next to the actual bin for the occasion. We will discuss scheduling time slots at the January meeting.

Composting - Lauren will finalize the details regarding bin promotion and post in the NGX newsletter

Lower Village Project - Doug/Sarah

ERC agreed to support planning this project along with RRCT and community members. The initial meeting was held on Zoom with ERC members, residents, and RRCT reps. After an overview of the project, and discussion of several key points, the group decided the goal is to present a couple of ideas to the selectboard, get feedback, tweak where necessary, then present the proposals to the public. Sara will connect with the town manager to discuss the committee's goals. Doug will email ERC members the minutes of the initial mtg.

Town Solar - Lauren

Lauren spoke with a representative of Competitive Energy Services regarding local solar companies. He (Charlie) suggested submitting a year of town CMP statements to be analyzed for information on how solar would impact the town's energy costs. He also suggested looking at the MSAD15 program with CES. Also the Town of Gray program with Revision Energy and the solar array being installed there. Sarah mentioned Ampion and the kickback program they offer to towns. Doug sent a link to ERC members to a Natural Resources Council of Maine video presentation, a summary of solar energy possibilities. Doug will contact Sara Mills-Knapp (sustainability manager with the Greater Portland Council Govt and ask her to attend an ERC meeting. Sarah provided a list of questions to ask all prospective solar companies, the goal being that all ERC members researching a company gather the same information to present to the selectboard.

Parks and Recreation: Sarah

The assistant librarian is using grant money to offer a DIY series of programs to the community. ERC members agreed to commit to at least 2 sessions, possible topics being composting and small container gardens. Details to be discussed at a later meeting.

Gardens: Alicia

The Pollinator Garden has received certification from the UMaine Cooperative Extension Service. The only concern was having a water source for pollinators within 200 feet of the garden. A birdbath or shallow container of some sort is acceptable and will be installed as part of the garden next season.

Invasive Plant Talk

ERC will ask Jeff Stann of the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership to speak at an ERC meeting before offering a public program to educate and outline a plan of action in the community.. Alicia will follow up with him on schedule.

Future Agenda Item - to discuss prioritizing public outreach, methods and implementation.

Next Meeting: January 6, 2022 5:30pm

Respectively Submitted - Diane Lamson (Secretary)