

Minutes of Environmental Resources Committee May 5, 2022

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

Minutes of April 2022 were approved with no changes.

Guest Speaker: Rob Cotiaux, NG town forester

Rob gave a brief overview of the more problematic invasive plants in the area that threaten to choke out native species, and have a negative impact on the native wildlife. After some discussion, ERC members agreed on a possible Action Plan that includes an inventory of NG public lands, finding out the town's plans for these properties before putting energies into invasive species control. A possible group educational walk/plant identification session at Rowe Station and/or the Fairgrounds. We will wait for black fly season to end.

The Emerald Ash Borer was briefly mentioned as an invasive that needs attention

ERC Budget: Stands at \$629 +/- some of which will be allocated to mulch for the pollinator garden, Book on invasive species, Bulbs, and a new banner for future events. Doug will create a list for Sarah to present to the town Manager for approval.

Lake Association Update (Dick)

Boat ramp at Outlet Beach is being worked on. ERC members are invited to SDL Association seminar on invasive plant patrol. Water testing will happen again this year. Results from a recent survey (taken by 60+ residents) will be posted soon.

Public Garden (Alicia)

Cheerleader group is not available to help this year, but Alicia contacted a Foreign Exchange Student group to help with garden mulching and weeding. Laura suggested connecting with the GNG Community Volunteer group for future projects.

Library Garden Workshop Series/Seed Giveaway Followup: Attendance was low, but most seed packets were taken by those who did come by. Suggested that next year we have more of a variety.

Apparel Impact Bin (Lauren)

Report is to be presented to the town in July. Lauren will get the relevant numbers from the company and discuss with ERC before this presentation to the select board

Composting Bins Project - Lauren

Bins will arrive at the end of May or early June. No location chosen yet

Town Solar Project - Doug/Lauren

ERC has been tasked to present 3 company options to the selectboard. Options include
Competitive Energy Solutions

Revision Energy (this company provided the solar array system for Gray

Nexamp

Ampion

Lauren and Laura will contact the companies to set up meetings to discuss potential proposals for the Town Solar project.

Climate Action/Resilience Partnership/ Support letter for Rachel Lyn Rumson as Service Provider

Doug will ask Rachel for a copy of the support letter she got from Gray for us to review and work off to draft a letter to present to the NG Selectboard.

Lower Village Project with RRCT and Community Group (Doug)

The group is waiting for CMP and the Town to work out details of the transfer of ownership of the Grange Hall lot. Then the focus will be on developing a plan for crossing to the RRCT parcel from the Grange Hall Road parcel.

New Business:

ERC Member Announcements:

Dick's term filling in for Joanne ends in June and he will not be continuing.

Alicia is resigning as of June

Doug will let the town manager know of the 2 open seats, and also inquire into the procedure for increasing the number of seats on the ERC from 6 to 8

Next meeting date June 2, 2022 at 5:30pm

Respectively submitted by Diane Lamson, Secretary ERC