

Location and time: Westwood Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members in attendance: Claire Galkowski (chair), Maria Costantini, Julie Gervais, Stephen Harte Pam Kane, and Stephen Shinopoulos

Others in attendance: Juliana Belding, Eugenia Gibbons (Program Director of Mass Energy, now Green Energy Consumers Alliance), Kate LaCroix, and Tom Philbin (Town of Westwood Energy Manager)

Routine Business

Approval of minutes. Minutes from April and May 2018 meetings were approved.

Topics Discussed

The order of the agenda topics was changed and we started with “new business”, which was about the Community Choice Aggregation.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). E. Gibbons gave a presentation on the CCA. Their mission is to harness the purchasing power of groups to negotiate discounts and make clean energy more accessible to all. After a question and answer period there was a consensus that this program would be a great opportunity for the town. T. Philbin agreed to bring this idea to Mike Jaillet for consideration.

Next Steps: T. Philbin will follow up with M. Jaillet in regard to the CCA.

Bring Your Own Bag Bylaw consideration. S. Harte updated on the survey results: we have received 472 responses to the online survey. It was decided to close the survey. It was also decided to wait to make a presentation to the Selectmen on a possible bag ban in Westwood until we know whether the State legislators pass a statewide ban (a bill had been passed by the House). J. Gervais and M. Costantini were delegated to give a short presentation at the August meeting of the Board of Selectmen if the bill did not pass. Discussion ensued on the environmental impacts of both plastic and paper bags. Members will contact local retailers to hear about their experience with Bring Your Own Bag bylaws in neighboring towns.

Next steps. M. Costantini will contact Christine McCarthy about getting on the August Board of Selectmen agenda if the statewide bag ban does not pass. M. Costantini and J. Gervais will prepare and give a brief presentation to the BOS on the environmental impact of plastic bags and ways to reduce their use, if a meeting is scheduled. K. LaCroix, J. Gervais, S. Shinopoulos, and M. Costantini will contact town store managers about their experience with Bring Your Own Bag bylaws.

Westwood Recycling Day: M. Costantini agreed to contact DPW about the fall event

Recycling contamination: tabled

Pesticide use on school grounds report: tabled

Election of new WEAC officers: tabled

New Business

Our committee has been asked to consider adopting the Earth Day cleanup program in town. A short discussion ensued and it was decided to put this item on the August meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Next meeting will be on the 23rd of August at 7:30 p.m.

Approved on October 11, 2018