

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

**Members in attendance:** Maria Costantini (Chair), Claire Galkowski, Julie Gervais, and Stephen Harte

**Others in attendance:** Juliana Belding, and Kate LaCroix

### **Routine Business**

Approval of minutes. Minutes from meetings of July 12 and August 23, 2018, were not ready. Postponed to the next meeting.

Next Steps: M. Costantini will clean up the current draft notes and distribute the draft minutes for approval at the next meeting. She will ask J. Gervais to set up a shared WEAC Google folder to store all our documents.

### **Topics Discussed**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). C. Galkowski and S. Hart attended a meeting with Mike Jaillet, Tom Philbin, Good Energy, Eugenia Gibbons. Reported that there was a very positive response from town officials, who thought that the residents would be intrigued by both green aspect and money saving. The switch renewable sources of electricity would be automatic for people on Eversource; others (with third party service) would have to opt in.

Next steps: 1) Town officials will bring the idea to the October Selectman's meeting; aiming to get something into December newsletter to do some PR and hopefully have a warrant article for May meeting (S. Harte will maintain contact with town officials and inform WEAC members about the date of the BOS meeting);

2) J. Gervais will send "Greening Our Grid" case study, graphics and other helpful CCA info to Mike Jaillet.

Plastic bags. M. Costantini and C. Galkowski summarized their meeting with DPW staff regarding recycling of plastic bags. WEAC members suggested distributing a flyer to distribute to residents to inform about disposal of plastic bags (cannot go with the recycling materials and have to brought to grocery stores, which special bins for collecting them). C. Galkowski provided some designs. DPW staff was in support authorized the printing of 1000 flyers, which would be distributed at town events.

Regarding the bag ban initiative, M. Costantini said that there will be a meeting with Mr. R. Roche (of Roche Brothers) to talk about his experience in towns where the plastic bag ban was implemented. J. She and C. Galkowski will attend; other WEAC members were welcome to join. To get more input before moving ahead with this initiative M. Costantini suggested inviting an expert on the topic to discuss the trade-offs between plastic and paper bags and the impact of the ban on paper bag usage. She suggested someone from the Sierra Club. C. Galkowski suggested Allison Leary from Newton, who is on the Newton City Council and has talked about the limited environmental impact of a plastic bag ban in the absence of a fee.

#### Next Steps

1) C. Galkowski will order the flyers, which will be delivered directly to DPW. WEAC members and DPW staff will distribute them at Westwood Day and DPW staff will distribute them at Hazardous Collection Day and Recycling Day at the time of check-in

2) J. Gervais will develop talking point (based on the retailer survey) for the meeting with Mr. R. Roche. C. Galkowski will invite the Newton City Council member to the next WEAC meeting (October 11); other members will gather more information about the issues at stake.

Approved on October 11, 2018

Westwood Day Next Steps. Discussed role of WEAC members at Westwood Day. It was decided that available WEAC members will stand near trash/recycling cans and hand out flyers and give a short explanation on the proper recycling of plastic bags; will also encourage use of cloth bags. At some locations we will also have signs (C. Galkowski will bring them to P. Kane). The list of volunteers who will distribute fliers and talk to residents is the following;

- a. Juliana: 11-12
- b. Kate: 11:30-1:30
- c. Steve: 12-1
- d. Pam?

Recycling Day. M. Costantini said that the date is October 13. DPW is in charge of the event and has sufficient staff to cover all the stations. However, volunteers are appreciated. They can help sorting and folding cardboard and removing fabrics from plastic. In the past they have salvaged well-kept toys and brought them to Savers. It was decided to also bring signs about how to recycle plastic bags (C. Galkowski has two signs)

Next step; make a list of WEAC volunteers at the next meeting. C. Galkowski will bring signs to DPW.

Earth Day Clean Up. S. Harte said he was contacted by Peter Mueller to see if he could take over the management of the Keep Westwood Clean site and organize the yearly cleanup week. S. Harte was willing to be involved and wanted to discuss possible other ways of organizing the clean up and also the duration: Should we do a week or just a day or a weekend? Should we do more direct reaching out to groups who would be interested in taking charge of an area to clean up? It was important to find a way to reach out to groups

Next steps: S. Harte will make a template for collecting potential contacts for the clean up. More concrete plans will be discussed later in the year.

Glyphosphate lawsuit (Roundup). C. Galkowski said that Monsanto lost a lawsuit on a cancer case associated with the long-term use of glyphosphate. This chemical is used in Westwood, but we do not to what extent.

Nest steps: K. La Croix and M. Costantini will do some research and contact someone at DPW to ask for information on what they are using.

### **Long-term actions**

- 1) WEAC should plan to go before Council on Aging, Neighbors in Action, and other groups to do basic education/presentation on CCA and drum up interest in Earth Day clean-up.
- 2) For future Westwood Days: aim to work with Rec Dept to have recycling stations with volunteers who can sort refuse into appropriate bins and prevent contamination by people trying to recycle things that can't be recycled.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**