

Westwood Environmental Action Committee minutes

August 1st, 2017

Present: Claire Galkowski, Maria Cosantini, Pam Kane, Ellen Larkin Rollings, Stephen Shinopoulos

Claire calls to order at 7:40

Nancy Hyde is our new liason with the Board of Selectman

Approval of Minutes from June: Maria moves to approve, Pam seconds, Unanimous approval

Greening Westwood Day:

Need suggestions for actions we could take, i.e. put recycling next to each trash and include signs

Helium balloon issue- too late to address.

Talk to vendors about preferred take away containers/utensils.

No table for WEAC

Ellen will write up notes and suggestions.

Report to Board of Selectman: Reviewed a draft report to the Board of Selectmen. The town has pressing environmental issues, such as loss of wetlands, that pose a hazard to Westwood's well-being. There is potential liability for the town in the case of severe weather incidents. Serious storms could make roads in town impassable and isolate buildings/residences.

Some grammatical and word choice edits made to the report.

Maria makes motion to approve the report, Pam Seconds, Unanimous Approval

Plastic Bag Ban: One of the Selectmen inquired about the possibility of WEAC pursuing a ban on plastic shopping bags, 55 towns in Massachusetts have a plastic bag ban or fee for disposable bags. WEAC had determined last year that pursuit of this could likely be uphill, with limited resources, so tabled. Revisit.

Publicity could highlight the Issue of plastic bags not being allowed in recycling.

Pam will talk to Nancy Hyde about prospects.

Solar and Energy Planning: November 5th tentative- Pam will reserve rooms at the library.

Possibility of having fewer, longer informational sessions. Structure similar to 2016's event.

Mass Energy has extended it's Drive Green program, invite.

DPW meeting- Claire and Maria will attend to discuss vulnerability planning, Recycling day date, Storm water drainage, salt use in snowstorms.

Facebook page being worked on

9/11 next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM