

Westwood Environmental Action Committee meeting minutes 1/11/2017

Present: Claire Galkowski*, Maria Cosantini*, Pam Kane*, Stephen Shinopoulos*, Emmy Behlau, Ellen Larkin-Rollings

* appointed

Minutes: Maria moved that we approve November minutes as written, Stephen seconded – unanimous approval.

Greening Westwood Day: Pam will email Nicole Banks to see if she can get on the committee. Goals are to facilitate waste reduction and recycling. No booth, mingle with crowd, engage kids with stickers.

Plan, foci for 2017: Claire compiled a list of potential activities relevant to our mission, asked the committee what are they interested in doing that will be most effective:

- Co-host - "Time to Choose"

Sponsor with the First Parish Needham, UU Sherborn, Westwood Walpole Dedham LWV, Needham LWV, Green Needham - 2/12/17, 3:00 p.m. - Film, discussion and informational tables from sponsor groups. Sponsor involves publicity - Maria moved, Stephen seconded - approved

- Webpage - Claire spoke with Dottie P; town is currently redesigning the website and we should wait until it's done to set up our page - Ellen volunteered to keep up with the information. Stephen will get the password for the committee. Populate with useful information, link to DPW recycling page.

- Plastic Bag Ban - We're not interested at this time - committee is too small and this would be too big a project to take on

- Gov. Baker - Executive Order [EO569](#) Resilience/Adaptation Planning, (sec. 3 a ii) – part that effects us is the guidance for municipalities - grant money is available for towns that apply early- We will find out what the town is doing in the area of the affect of climate change on Westwood.

- Is anyone interested publishing articles in the quarterly town newsletter - Maria suggested that submit articles ad hoc.

- School Environmental speakers - Stephen is meeting with principals. Get the kids active early - elementary level. Check for grants available through WEF. Claire recommended that Steve sign up for Thegreenteam.org for DEP help with curriculum, prizes.

- MCAN - 100% "renewables for all" campaign – Goal of 50 Municipalities to sign on by 2017 to reach 100% renewables by 2030 to 2050 . The resolution would have to be approved at town meeting. Toolkit and support available. Long term project. General consensus is that it is too

big for our small committee.

- Westwood Commonwealth Compact: Should WEAC participate in advocating for Open Space
- Pam is already the committee and will send email to the Open Space Committee - Claire will draft letter thanking BOS to be approved by committee via email - Pam moved, Stephen seconded - approved - Claire will copy Nora Loughnane, too.

- Solar Fair - We will definitely do it again next fall. Start planning in August.

- Healthy Water Management Systems. Westwood has lost 20% of their wetlands - Town needs to draft plan to improve water management - include drought prevention, wetlands conservation, water quality - Culvert on Dover Road - try to get a grant to do data collection and design and then possibly get grants to make improvements - we need permission from the town - Emmy and Maria will look into the possibility of moving forward with the plan - time is essential as it must be submitted by the end of the month - Emmy would draft the grant and send to Nora - Norah can review and submit - Emmy will run it by Norah and Mike to see what they think. WEAC supports.

New business - none

Next meeting 2/8/17 7:30, Lower Town Hall

Meeting adjourned 9:34 p.m.