

WEAC MEETING MINUTES- APRIL 2021

Online meeting, Thursday, 4/15/21 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Steve Harte, Julie Gervais, Claire Galkowski, Kate La Croix, Brian Bayer, Maria Costantini, Jen Atkins, Juliana Belding

Others in attendance: None.

Routine business: March minutes amended and approved.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

Follow up re: discussion with Chris Coleman on Sustainability Coordinator role:

- 1) Chris researched the position in a few other towns.
- 2) He will integrate the information he gathered with the job description WEAC wrote.
- 3) Chris said that a meeting with the Select Board would likely be the next step, in order to determine budget for the position, etc.

Next steps:

- 1) JG and SH will plan to meet with Chris again.

Westwood Day 2021:

- 1) SM met with head of Black Earth Compost (BEC) re: participation.
- 2) WEAC can use bins already at the schools.
- 3) There would be a charge for BEC's transport of the large bins to the high school that day: worst case, \$225 paid for by WEAC. Pick up would be on Westwood's normal pick up day.
- 4) Discussion re: promoting BEC's services: WEAC would need to check with Chris Coleman on whether we would be allowed to do this.
- 5) Discussion of a company that might provide compostable cups and cutlery: Good Start, which has a relationship with BEC. Possible that they would donate.
- 6) If we get to the point of confirmation, WEAC will need to check with the Board of Health.

Next Steps:

- 1) KL will contact rec department about moving forward.

Discussion of EV's and charging sites in Westwood:

- 1) SH talked with Tom Philbin:
 - a) Tom is applying to Eversource for the infrastructure for charging stations (i.e., running wires from transformer to desired sites) and is considering 5 sites in town: police station, library, Council on Aging, Rec Center, Islington Library.
 - b) Tom is also applying to DOER to get Chargepoint chargers installed at the site(s).
 - c) The final step is the PD buying an electric cruiser.

Next steps:

- 1) SH will follow up more with Chief Silva.

Discussion of possible tree planting campaign:

- 1) JG suggested that WEAC could spearhead a tree planting campaign in town.
- 2) Could involve families in the town—"sponsor a tree."
- 3) Need to explore budgeting and who has the expertise to plan the plantings.
- 4) Question of whether we could get an organization to sponsor the campaign: e.g., Westwood Land trust?
- 5) Could incorporate the project into the landscaping of the new school: families could donate to buy trees and the landscapers would plant them.

Next steps:

- 1) MC and JG will talk with Brendan at DPW re: his role as Tree Warden, the potential for Westwood to become a tree city, and what he thinks about the idea of the planting campaign.
- 2) BB will run the idea by the School Building Committee.

Discussion of Seasonal Repair Café and Swap Shop:

- 1) SH suggested that WEAC could sponsor these to try to divert items from the waste stream.
- 2) Comments:
 - a. Swap shops are very difficult to maintain.
 - b. Library of things— people can borrow items and then return.

Next steps:

- 1) CG will research what other towns have done with the library of things concept.

CEA update:

- 1) It's looking like the launch will be in 2022.

Update on drafting of questions for town government candidates:

- 1) LWV was not accepting questions for their candidate forum this year, but they had several good environmentally-oriented questions.
- 2) Discussion of whether WEAC should publish its questions and the candidates' responses, as well as where we would post it. It was decided that because the election is only 13 days away, there is probably not enough time for the candidates to respond.
- 3) Proposal: WEAC could invite the officials, once elected, to a WEAC meeting, where we could hear their responses to our questions.

Discussion of whether WEAC should have a liaison with the Planning Board.

Next steps:

- 1) JA will explore getting a liaison for WEAC with the Planning Board.

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Brief discussion of WEAC website

- 1) WEAC would like to have control of its own website, including posting minutes.

Next steps:

- 1) JA will follow up with Donna McClellan, who is the webmaster for the town.

Topics for next meeting:

- 1) Pesticide applications in town
- 2) Planning board meeting invitation to WEAC
- 3) WW Day update
- 4) Tree planting campaign follow-up

Adjourned: 9:16

Next meeting date: May 20, 2021