

## WEAC MEETING MINUTES- MAY 2021

### **Online meeting, Thursday, 5/6/21 @ 7:30 PM**

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

**Others in attendance:** None.

**Routine business:** April minutes amended and approved.

### **Topics discussed w/next steps:**

#### **Westwood Day 2021:**

- 1) KL reached out to the Rec Department, but no response yet.

#### **Next Steps:**

- 1) KL will follow up.

#### **Discussion of pesticide/herbicide/fungicide use in Westwood:**

- 1) KL and MC summarized info from Brendan at DPW and Protecting Pollinators webinar
  - a) WW uses three products that have documented toxicity: Finale (herbicide)→ glufosinate, Dorado (fungicide)→ propiconazole, Barricade (pre-emergent weed control)→ prodiamine.
  - b) Several routes we could take to try to change the practices in town; one is to create a non-binding resolution to make Westwood a pollinator friendly town—raise awareness among residents.
  - c) In conjunction with a non-binding resolution, WEAC could have a campaign to hand out garden signs to people who refrain from using pesticides/herbicides/fungicides.
  - d) Needham and Wellesley have done a lot of work in this area.

#### **Next steps:**

- 1) JA will contact Wellesley and research what they use.
- 2) CG will contact Green Needham to see how they manage the issue.

#### **Discussion of changing the language in Ground Mount Solar bylaws:**

- 1) The issue is on the Planning Board meeting agenda for 5/18.
- 2) CG has been communicating with Planning Board members about it.
- 3) WEAC should continue to work on this with Planning Board.
- 4) BB suggested approaching it by changing the bylaw language to say that installations would be excluded from front yards, specifically, which would allow them in side and back yards and might make a difference to people concerned about aesthetics.

#### **Next steps:**

- 1) BB will look into zoning codes that might be relevant.
- 2) CG will attend PB meeting on 5/18 and continue discussion with the PB.

**Consideration of applying for grants for a Climate Action/Resiliency Plan for Westwood:**

- 1) This was put on hold for now, as the town did not have enough information gathered to apply for grants at this time.

**Update on possible tree planting campaign/Tree City concept:**

- 1) MC and JG have a preliminary conversation with Brendan Ryan and Todd Korchin at DPW set up for 5/7.

**Next steps:**

- 1) MC and JG will update us at the next WEAC meeting.

**Connecting/reconnecting with town boards and newly elected candidates:**

- 1) Nancy Hyde will help WEAC identify a new liaison with the Select Board.
- 2) To establish a liaison with the Planning Board: best way is to contact Abby McCabe and ask her to put the issue on a Planning Board agenda.
- 3) WEAC could reconnect with Select Board more generally by asking to do a presentation at one of their summer meetings and update them on what we have been doing/future plans.

**Next steps:**

- 1) SH will reach out to Abby re: Planning Board agenda.
- 2) SH will reach out to Chris Coleman re: setting up a WEAC presentation at a Select Board meeting.

**Adjourned:** 8:50 pm

**Next meeting date:** June 17, 2021