

WEAC MEETING MINUTES- November 2021

**Online meeting, Thursday, 11/18/21 @ 7:30 PM**

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

**Others in attendance:** Ellen Rollings

**Routine business:** October minutes approved.

**Topics discussed w/next steps:**

**Discussion about Tree-Plenish Program:**

- 1) WEAC will be a sponsor of the event that will be hosted by the WHS GYAC in the spring.
- 2) WEAC decided on an initial sponsorship amount of \$200 (40 saplings), but we will also let GYAC know that we can support them further if needed.

**Discussion of Trash and Recycling/Meeting with DPW (10/24) Recap:**

- 1) Recycling Day recap - good turnout, the money collected does not cover all the costs. The same is true for the Hazardous Day collection.
- 2) Overall recycling contamination in town has decreased from about 15% to about 9%, so no more surcharges.
- 3) Asked to have town compost bins at the WEAC Westwood Day booth next year.
- 4) DPW yard: issue of setting up some permanent recycling containers; DPW responded that they don't have the space for them.
- 5) Asked about the stoppage of yard waste pick-ups in July and August—DPW cited high cost.
- 6) WEAC recommended that there be quarterly meetings between us and DPW.
- 7) Asked DPW about pesticide/herbicide application—they expressed interest in reducing the use of these chemicals, but said that they get a lot of push back from the town residents when the playing fields are not in good shape. They do feel that they are being as conscientious as possible in their applications.
- 8) Discussed the need to raise the pesticide issue with the School Board again and see if they are open to exploring organic field maintenance practices.

**Next Steps:**

- 1) Brian will raise pesticide issues with the School Board.
- 2) Sue will work with DPW to set up future meetings.

**Update on CCE:**

- 1) Maria contacted State Reps. In researching the timeline she found that the DPU had sent some questions back to the town in March and May 2021, to which the town responded.
- 2) DPU did not have an explanation for the delay but expressed that they understood that municipalities are eager to get approval (none of the 6 communities that were with Westwood have been approved).

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**Next steps:**

- 1) Maria will continue to follow up.

**Update on Resolution in support of Producer Responsibility Legislation:**

- 1) Claire spoke with Rob Gotti, who suggested a presentation to the Select Board, which Claire has been working on.
- 2) Hope to get on the Select Board agenda early in the new year.

**Update on Solar Bylaw:**

- 1) WEAC would like to give formal input before the next Planning Board meeting, but more time is needed for members to review the document draft.

**Next steps:**

- 1) WEAC will have a short meeting to address this issue specifically in early December.

**Discussion of Dedham-Westwood Water District/recent elevated levels of TTHM in drinking water:**

- 1) Ellen spoke with Steve Locke: DWWD is concerned and working to locate the source of the problem and fix it.
- 2) One concern is making sure that DWWD gets sufficient funding to really address the issue and not only get us back into compliance, but also get us well under the allowed limits (we've been trending upward toward those limits for several years).
- 3) Rob Gotti suggested that WEAC reps attend Select Board meetings when environmentally-related topics such as this come up.
- 4) Water quality issues are not in WEAC's purview, but communication with the Select Board is generally agreed to be a good thing.

**Adjourned:** 9:10 pm

**Next meeting date:** December 1, 2021 at 7:30 PM