

WEAC MEETING MINUTES- April 2022

Online meeting, Thursday, 4/14/22 @ 7:30 PM

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

Others in attendance: None

Routine business: Approval of March 2022 minutes.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

CCE Update:

- 1) Recap of Select Board presentation by Maria and Juliana.
- 2) The board liked the idea of the informational video.
- 3) Eversource rates will be available the third week in May; we hope to have DPU approval before then.
- 4) The Select Board said that the roll-out should be in September vs. August.

Brief update on Tom Philbin's solar presentation at the Select Board meeting:

- 1) Focus was on the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. The board was in support of installing them at the Police Station and the Islington Library branch; they did not yet support the installation of charging stations on school property.

Earth Day Clean-Up:

- 1) Selected an area and a date for WEAC's clean-up:
 - a. Lyman's Pond behind First Baptist Church; Sunday, 4/24/22 at 2:00 PM; meet at the Senior Center.
 - b. Noted the lack of advertising of the program and the fact that only a few people have signed up to clean this year.
 - c. WEAC would like to help organize the effort next year.

Next steps:

- 1) Julie will reach out to the contact at Hale to ask about the possibility of last-minute advertising for this year and how WEAC can help with more robust, advanced advertising and organization for next year.

Tree Plenish Update:

- 1) Planting date: 4/30/22, 2:00-4:00
- 2) Maria attended a recent meeting of the Westwood Conservation Commission, at which they began discussing tree management and tree planting in town.

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Next steps:

- 1) WEAC will connect with the Conservation Commission on this topic.

Solar Zoning Update:

- 1) The Planning Board will present the solar zoning amendments at the upcoming town meeting for a vote.
- 2) WEAC voted to allow Claire to represent its views at town meeting, using language drafted by a subcommittee made up of Claire, Kate, Maria, and Ellen Rollings.

Next steps:

- 1) Kate, Maria, Claire, and Ellen will meet to draft some language in support of the amendments that can be presented at town meeting.

Sustainability Coordinator role:

- 1) Funding for this will be addressed in the upcoming budget and hopefully approved by the town at town meeting.

Next steps: WEAC will approach Chris Coleman re: providing input into the job description for the Sustainability Coordinator and being part of the interview committee.

Letter to Hale Task Force status update:

- 1) It does not appear that the Select Board has taken any action on the Task Force's recommendation that the town give money to Hale to purchase a conservation restriction.
- 2) A forum should be provided as an opportunity for residents to ask questions and get informed about the issue. Ideally, this should be hosted by the Select Board, but WEAC could also play the role of host.
- 3) If WEAC hosts, we would need representatives from Hale, the Task Force, the Select Board, and the Planning Board to attend.
- 4) WEAC could try to get support from other groups as well: Charles River Green Coalition, Westwood Land Trust, etc.

Next steps: To encourage a public forum on the subject, WEAC will approach the Select Board and ask them if they would like to host it or if WEAC should do it.

Westwood Day 2022:

- 1) WEAC will participate again this year.

Next steps: Kate will handle the registration forms. Kate will also contact the Rec Dept and, if allowed, start a search for food vendors who would be willing to attend and use compostable service ware at the event.

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Note: Town meeting is May 2, 2022 with check-in at 5:30 PM.

Adjourned: 9:11 PM

Next meeting date: May 19, 2022 at 7:30 PM