

WEAC MEETING Minutes - March 2023

Online meeting, Thursday - 3/16/23 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Sue McGown (acting chair), Brian Bayer, Juliana Belding, Maria Costantini, Julie Gervais, Leslie Greffenius, Stephen Harte, Anne Marie Kline (AMK).

Others in attendance: Christine McCarthy (member of the public) and Srirup Kumar (member of the public). They participated by phone during the discussion of composting efforts in the schools.

Routine business: Approval of the February 16, 2023, minutes.

1. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

Update on the letter to the Select Board about Hale:

1. No response from the Board yet

Discussion of sustainability and composting efforts in the schools:

1. Christine and Srirup (members of the public) reported that, before Covid, there was a composting effort in one school. It was spearheaded by some teachers and funded by the Westwood Cultural Council. The activity stopped during Covid and some parents would like to revamp it. The education part is the most difficult. Funds are needed for personnel and compost pick-up. It will be important to find a facility nearby to reduce diesel fuel consumption. The PTA may contribute some funds. Would WEAC be able to help? WEAC is receptive, but would need to see a proposal in the context of overall efforts and other potential sources of funding.
2. **Action item:** none

Discussion of Earth Day clean-up and related activities:

1. Julie reported that she talked with the Hale Director about working together to coordinate the clean-up; Hale has a sign-up site, but it is hard to find.
2. Maria asked if there was interest in organizing a CCE opt-up campaign in connection with Earth Day. Most members were in favor of the campaign, but thought that it would be better to postpone it for a couple of months so the residents can see the effect of the rate change. It was noted that the March bill still had the Eversource rate.
3. **Action items:**
 - . Julie will work with Hale staff to write an article about the clean-up for the local newspaper.
 - . WEAC members will gather in the COA parking lot on Saturday April 15 at 10 am to clean the area behind the High School (along the playing fields).
 - . WEAC members will discuss the Opt-Up campaign at the next meeting

Brief Update on hiring of Sustainability Manager:

1. There is a line in this year budget for the part-time position

3/2/23 WEAC-DPW meeting debrief:

1. Sue reported that she, Kate, and Claire Galkowski met for a follow-up meeting with DPW. One topic covered was a potential permanent collection site for recyclable materials such as cardboard. DEP has no plan for this given lack of space and the difficulty to monitor the site. DEP lacks space for the existing equipment. There was some discussion of a possible collaboration with Dover, which will be explored.
2. Another topic covered was the fields' treatment plans. Kate asked if it was possible to obtain the list of chemicals that will be applied. DPW 's treatments conform to state regulations and aim to meet the residents' expectations.

Sue reported about WEAC's plan to set up a Task Force, the main goal of which is to study and propose approaches to protect pollinators' health. It would include representatives of other town committees and possibly DPW staff and other municipal employees.

Pollinator Protection update

1. Kate (via email) reported that so far, two members of the Conservation Commission, one member of the Planning Board, and the President of the Westwood Garden Club have expressed interest in being a part of a Pollinator Protection Task Force.
2. Kate has been in touch with Dottie Powers (Town Clerk) to seek guidance regarding the organization of a Pollinator Protection Task Force. Questions that are being discussed are how many WEAC members can be in it and how it can be set up in order to follow the open meeting law. One option is to ask the Select Board to approve the Task Force and appoint its members.
3. **Action Item:** Kate will continue to work with Town Clerk and Town Counsel to reach a consensus on the structure and composition of the Pollinator Protection Task Force.

Adjourned: 9:05 PM

Next meeting date: tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2023. The final decision was delegated to Kate La Croix (WEAC chair)