

WEAC MEETING Minutes - August 2023

In person meeting, Thursday - 8/17/23 @ 7:30 PM

**Members in attendance:** Kate La Croix (chair), Sue McGown (vice chair), Maria Costantini, Julie Gervais, Leslie Greffenius, Stephen Harte, Ann Marie Kline (AMK), and Beverly Rainforth (new member).

**Others in attendance:** none

**Routine business: Approval of the minutes.** The minutes of the June meeting were unanimously approved after making some corrections.

**Topics discussed w/next steps:**

**Update on new WEAC members joining this fall:**

1. Kate introduced the new WEAC member, Beverly Rainforth. She announced that there is another new member, who couldn't attend. She also announced that Stephen was reappointed for another term. Stephen offered to take over the role of vice-chair (Sue's position) in January 2024. There was unanimous consensus on this proposal.

**Update on grant request from Community Choice Organics**

No discussion because the applicant could not attend the meeting.

**Westwood Day plans**

1. Kate will submit the application for a booth in the Vendor Village. In addition, we will have a presence in the Food Court. Black Earth will be providing the compost bins at a cost around \$200  
A motion was passed to approve the expense of the Vendor Sign-Up Fee (\$40) and Black Earth services (up to a maximum of \$300 total).
2. Collection of compost in and around the Food Court: There will be a total of 8 stations where a compost bin will be paired with a trash and a recycling bin. There will be a need for volunteers to monitor these stations: ideally, we will have 2 persons at each station. At a minimum we will focus on 5 stations. AMK agreed to contact the National Honor Society to ask for volunteers. Maria will ask members of her hiking group.
3. WEAC Booth. Topics/projects that could be highlighted at the booth include:
  - Opt-up to 100% CCE poster. There was a consensus not to launch a campaign to opt-up at this time so there will be no poster
  - Support Hale -It was agreed to ask the Land Trust for materials to display and distribute
  - Solar initiatives – It was agreed that Julie will work with Tom Philbin and Ameresco to make posters of the future solar projects
  - Composting – some activities in coordination with Black Earth
  - Kate will coordinate all the events

**Hale: Discussion of informational events that WEAC may host this fall**

**Westwood Town Clerk**

1. Kate made the suggestion to host an informational meeting in October in coordination with the Land Trust and The Trustees. The Land Trust and The Trustees are also planning a meeting at the COA in September.

**New Business that may come before the Committee, not anticipated by the Chair**

1. Kate reported that recently the town hired a new town Planner, Elijah Romulus. He is developing a Sustainability Plan and has set up a Task Force to get ideas and advice. He has also looked at relevant documents produced by other Town Committees and the State and has developed a survey to be distributed to Westwood residents. A meeting of the Task Force is being planned. In addition, there will be “vision” meetings open to the public in the fall. It was agreed that Kate, Stephen, and Leslie will represent WEAC at these meetings.
2. Kate recalled that, in the spring, WEAC was contacted by a resident concerned about the use of leaf blowers. She asked Maria to contact the resident and ask him if he wanted to attend one of our meetings.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be on October 19, 2023.**