

WEAC MEETING Minutes – February 2024

In person meeting, Thursday - 2/15/24 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Kate La Croix (chair), Julie Gervais, Maria Costantini, Steve Harte (vice chair), and Beverly Rainforth

Others in attendance:

Routine business: Approval of the January minutes. The minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved after making some corrections.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

Update on collaboration with DPW and projects related to recycling contamination

1. Kate reported that the Select Board agreed to send the reverse 911 notification (e-email) to the Westwood residents to inform them about the recycling contamination and provide practical advice on how to correct the problem. The email will include a video produced by DPW and a link to a site Steve is developing. Julie will post all this information on the WEAC Facebook site
2. **Next steps:**
 - a. Steve will develop the email and an article for the Hometown Weekly newspaper. The article will list the most important contaminants: trash bags, plastic bags, textiles, hangers, holiday lights, paint, and loose caps. Kate, will review the article.
 - b. Kate will contact the Hometown Weekly to introduce WEAC to the new editor. She will also contact the Westwood Minute and Brian Camp, who runs the reverse 911 community notification service for the Town of Westwood.
3. Kate asked for ideas on how to fund the purchase of stickers for recycling barrels. The sticker would display the main items that cannot be recycled (#5's). The idea is for WEAC members to go around town and put the stickers on the barrels on recycling weeks.
4. **Next steps.** It was agreed that Kate will contact Norwood Printing to get a quote. Although we will need about 5000 stickers in total, we could start by ordering 1000 and assess the feasibility of the project.

New Life Furniture Bank

1. Steve has developed an on-line form residents can fill out during Bulk collection Week to donate specific types of furniture to New Life Furniture. This program will be advertised on Facebook, Westwood Minute, and Hometown Weekly. Two volunteers on a truck will pick the furniture the day before (Sunday) the town pick-up.

“Did you know?” articles. It was decided to hold off writing articles for the Hometown Weekly until Kate connects with the editor.

Discussion of a potential Repair Café for Westwood

Approved on March 21, 2024

Received April 2, 2024@8:30AM
By:Westwood Town Clerk

1. Sue and Steve went to Salem and met with the Salem's Waste Reduction Coordinator, who runs a Repair Café for the town. They learned that those in need of a repair are given appointments with a "fixer". The fixers are volunteers. They also run events every 3 months where all the fixers are available and do the repairs on that day without appointments. Sewing, mending, and lamp repairs are the most common needs. Steve suggested starting a Café in Westwood. He proposed making a flyer to find volunteer "fixers".
2. **Next Steps:** Steve will make the file and post it in Westwood public buildings.

Initial Earth Month (April) planning. Postponed to the next meeting

Update on Hale Conservation Restriction

Kate recently found out that the negotiations between the Town of Westwood and Hale Education regarding the Hale conservation restriction were closed. This fact was not announced to the public. Kate wrote a letter calling this out and reiterating the importance of Hale to the Town of Westwood.

Update on Trex stretch plastics collection

This program is designed as a community recycling challenge for an organization to collect plastic bags for return to TREX via selected grocery stores. These bags are used to make wood-alternative decking and railing. Organizations that collect at least 1,000 pounds of recycled plastic film during a 12-month period would receive a composite bench. WEAC members noted that the target was not realistic but will share information about the program with the high school Environmental Action Club.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next meeting will be on 3/21/2024