

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
June 7, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

John Vibert, Chair
Betty DaCruz
Cate Grady-Benson
John Hinze
Katy Perry

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

- A. Call to Order – The chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. To Approve the Following Minutes.
The minutes of May 2, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved
(Hinze/Perry)
- D. Old Business.
 - 1. Solar - Municipal Applicability
 - a. John Vibert is continuing to contact vendors to explore our options.
 - b. Shannon provided emails from interested vendors to John for initial screening. (Titan Energy)
 - 2. Discuss Goals
 - a. Annual Clean Up Day
 - o Press Release was sent out May 24, 2016. It was published in the Valley Press on June 2nd.
 - o Shannon to send press release to Katy for posting to the Committee's Facebook page and have it posted on the Green Efforts page of the Town website.
 - o Cate confirmed that all prizes have been distributed to the Heaviest Haul winners and Thank you notes have been sent to all of the donors.
 - o There was a general discussion regarding changes for next year surrounding the category breakdown for the Heaviest Haul competition and the distribution of the prizes. This will be revisited more during the planning phase for next year's event.
 - o We discussed the need to encourage school involvement and reinforce that participation can be counted for the full week leading up to Clean Up Day.
 - o In reviewing the data the Committee has tallied each year, it was noted that there are a number of repeat participants each year.

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day has been set for next year on Saturday, April 29, 2017.
 - b. Community Pledge – not discussed
 - c. Outdoor Lighting Project
 - Shannon provided an update to the Committee regarding the status of the project and the work with Loureiro. Currently, the Town is confirming the existing lighting locations, type and wattage at each school and Town Hall. This information will then be reconciled on the data sheets that are provided to Eversource to calculate the incentive and return on investment.
3. Compost Bins
- a. Sales closed on May 29th.
 - b. The distribution date was Saturday, June 4th.
 - i. Distribution went very well. There were 14 bins left for pick up throughout the following week.
 - ii. Dan Gallagher (UCONN Master Gardener) was in attendance to answer questions for residents.
 - iii. The Committee took an informal survey of the residents and noted that of 46 residents asked 25 were new to composting and 21 were already composting.
 - iv. Summary of the sale:
 - 1. **Compost Bin= 79**
 - 2. **Compost Turner=33**
 - 3. **Compost Thermometer=17**
 - 4. **Kitchen Collector= 27**
 - 5. 4 demonstration bins raffled and distributed
 - v. We discussed the need to send a thank you to the three speakers for the lecture series – to be sent from Committee.
 - vi. The Committee discussed follow up communication with the compost bin purchasers through the summer to offer suggestions and share best practices – possibly include a link to the FB page to facilitate best practices.
 - vii. The Committee discussed the experience of working with the current vendor and agreed that should this sale be pursued again next year a different vendor will be considered.
 - c. Betty noted that Sub Edge Farm had been awarded a Green Circle Sustainability Award from the Hartford Business Journal. She suggested follow up with Sub Edge and the Hartford Business Journal to learn more and recognize them on the town website, the EDC newsletter, etc. She also noted that it might be possible to nominate the Green Efforts Committee next year.
4. Adopt A Roadway – Cate plans to look into other vendors to assist in facilitating this effort.

5. CT Water Planting Area

- a. Shannon provided an update on the planting area, noting that planting day on May 3rd was a success.
- b. The Japanese knotweed will be an on-going battle. Efforts took place on May 28th to remove emergent knotweed in the planting area.
- c. Once a month weeding days are planned through the summer to assist with the survivability of the plants.
 - i. Tentative dates: June 25th, July 31st, and August 20th
 - ii. It was suggested to reach out to a larger volunteer group and include individuals on the Green Efforts email distribution lists from the solar and composting programs.

E. New Business

1. Shannon shared Rose's idea of starting a semi-annual newsletter. All were in favor of this idea. All agreed that semi-annual was sufficient and that quarterly was not necessary and likely not sustainable.

F. Other Business

1. Branding / Marketing

- a. The discussion concerning the newsletter led to a discussion regarding branding and marketing Green Efforts projects. Items discussed included:
 1. Updating the logo (Shannon to work with Kat on this.)
 2. Once the updated logo is created the Committee would like to look into purchasing table banners for use on Cleanup Day and possibly at the Unionville Festival. Shannon to look into funding.

2. Meetings

- a. The Committee unanimously approved a change to the meeting schedule for the summer. The meetings in July and August are cancelled and the meeting in September is moved to September 13th. (Grady-Benson / Hinze) (This has been updated on the website.)
 - b. A brief discussion took place regarding the agenda for the September meeting. The thoughts were that many of the tasks / projects that the Green Efforts Committee undertakes fall into three categories:
 1. Waste Reduction
 2. Energy Conservation
 3. Invasive Species Reduction / Open Space Management
3. Car Charging Stations – a discussion took place regarding the ability to have a car charging station on town property at town hall or the library. Items discussed included funding, maintenance, cost for charging, etc. (Subsequent to the meeting Betty sent an article about area municipalities with charging stations.) Shannon to look into the viability and contact other municipalities. This will also be added to the September agenda.
 4. The Committee discussed the bylaws with respect to total membership. There was a discussion regarding removing the inactive members. Shannon to follow up regarding the updated bylaws and current member list. John Vibert planned to contact David and Liz to confirm their participation moving forward.

5. The Committee would like to participate in the Unionville Festival.
 - a. Sunday, September 25, 2016

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm (DaCruz / Hinze)

cc: Paula Ray, Town Clerk to post
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fagan, Board of Education
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant