



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
7:30 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

Environmental Sustainability Committee – Community Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Tiana Veldwisch
Julie Smith-Galvin
Robin Greenberg

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

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| Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m by T. Veldwisch.
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available. |
| Approval of Minutes | Tabled. |
| Public Participation | Kathy Gallucci joined the meeting and shared about her beekeeping expertise and willingness to educate community members about bees. We discussed hosting her at the library for an educational event, similar to past events, with potential for WCAT to record the talk. She will try to arrange for the observation hive to be able to come as well and can prepare remarks about bees, other pollinators, pollinator-friendly planting, and other ways community members can be supportive of pollinators. Looking at dates in March / April. |
| Goals for 2024 | We discussed goals and initiatives for 2024 including events, media, reporting, and celebrating / socializing sustainability plans and actions. We discussed the possibility of including a report / scorecard on sustainability initiatives in the annual Town Report. Julie to follow up on timeline and method to include content in that report. We discussed possible tours related to the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) and possibility to open those to the public and/or record short segments about them via WCAT to celebrate what was achieved through the first year of the ERP and Wakefield being a Green Community. We discussed opportunity to create content that can be shared in other outlets such as in WCAT as “filler” material and in the Item, pending graphic design support from committee members or volunteers. |
| Next Events | We discussed potential next events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pollinators – indoors in library, March/April, with Kathy per above. WCAT recording. Next steps: align on dates with Kathy and library/WCAT. |



- Casual “ask a neighbor” forum about EVs and the cold. Next steps: Tiana to seek participants and try to arrange.
- Casual “ask a neighbor” forum about Solar with Tom as solar coach. Next steps: reach out to Tom, find a date to try it.
- STEAM Night – K-4 students, at Galvin, March 14. Discussed topics / activities for the table, including: matching game about energy sources, give out seeds, show worm composting, discuss / rank ways to get to school, promote signing up for compost. Next steps: further explore possibility of any of these topics, sign up for event.
- Festival at the Lake – June 8th.
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory 101 – indoors in library, potentially collaboration with WMGLD to explain about energy sources and how green is our energy. Tiana to discuss with Melissa and WMGLD.
- EV Business Roundtable – discuss/present to businesses about EVs in business fleet, businesses to share their experiences, then also show vehicles. Next steps: engage with town (Erin K) and Chamber of Commerce, Green Business subcommittee. Probably hold until after Spring Town Meeting.
- Tour of Black Earth Compost – what’s the right time of year for this? New facility is in Manchester-by-the-Sea. Next step: reach out for info about how to do a tour, after the new year.
- (from last time, not discussed) Food impact – something about the relative environmental impact of particular food choices. Tiana to ask Sean about potential speakers, could be indoor in library any time of year.
- Litter pickup – probably not host separate event but support and promote existing events. Next steps: Tiana to reach out to Wakefield Warriors and Friends of Lake Q about their events.
- Fix-it café – Melrose did one recently, could get support from Lend & Mend on setup, Lexington used to host via Senior Center. Next steps: Julie to connect with Senior Center about interest and skills.

**Engaging with
STEM Curriculum**

We discussed the desire to engage with the STEM review process, though next steps are with Amy, ESC’s liaison to the School Committee, as we don’t want to disrupt the ongoing process. We also discussed other ways the ESC could infuse sustainability topics through reading at schools, Shadow Day, etc.

**Other Channels &
Media**

We discussed the Item and potential to engage volunteers to write. Could Myra be interested to write sometimes?

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 28, 2024 at 7:30pm.

**Topics Not
Anticipated**

Brief discussion on how social media postings are organized and planned.

**Committee
Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Tiana Veldwisch

Attachments: -