



TOWN OF PEMBROKE RECYCLING and SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 16th, 2023 7:00pm

Pembroke Public Library

Trustees Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Meghan Watts (chair), Steve Curley, Kay Kopper, Evan Payne, and Charles Marshall (remotely)

Ms. Watts called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and opened with an acknowledgment of the resignation of Kairyn Rainer, the Committee's former clerk. Ms. Watts asked if other members of the Committee would be willing to fill the clerk role, and Mr. Payne offered to do so with request for guidance. Mr. Curley encouraged Mr. Payne to review past minutes on the town website for examples, and Ms. Watts offered to take minutes at tonight's meeting and send to Mr. Payne as an example. Ms. Watts also explained that Mr. Payne will need to send the agenda to the assistant town manager 2 days prior to the meeting so it can be posted on the town website. Ms. Watts then asked for a motion to nominate Mr. Payne, which Mr. Curley moved, Ms. Copper seconded, and the remaining committee members voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Christmas Tree Lighting Table Dec 2nd

Ms. Copper showed the Committee the finished display of local stores that can accept materials for recycling, consignment, or donation. Discussion then moved to ideas for reducing holiday food waste. We agreed that we will create an additional display that includes: tips on using leftovers, composting, and encouraging people to take leftovers home. We will gather recipe ideas for leftovers, which Mr. Marshall will create QR codes for so people can access them at the table. Ms. Copper, Mr. Payne, and Mr. Marshall will all be available at 1:30pm on the 2nd for setup and Ms. Watts will join the table at approximately 2:30pm. Mr. Curley will be unavailable that day.

Terracycle initiative

Ms. Watts explained that she had not received confirmation from the assistant town manager that we can organize the electronic toy drive at the recycling center and will email her again tomorrow. Ms. Watts suggested if we are unable to do a post-holiday toy drive that we consider doing it in the spring. Additionally, Ms. Watts mentioned that Hobomock Elementary School has started to use Terracycle in the cafeteria and that the PTO is the recipient of the donation money it generates. Ms. Watts suggested we consider talking to other school PTO's about using Terracycle to raise funds. Mr. Payne responded that he has a meeting with the town manager on November 20th and would be happy to inquire about the toy drive.



Renewable Energy and a town Climate Action Plan

Mr. Payne explained that he has been following emerging trends on the cost of renewable energy versus non-renewables and that renewables are currently less expensive. He further explained that if the town were to invest in renewable energy and encourage residents to choose renewable options it could potentially save residents and the town money. Mr. Payne has a meeting with the town manager on November 20th during which he plans to learn more about a town Climate Action Plan to align with state regulations around emissions reductions. Mr. Payne plans to discuss ideas for renewable energy and carbon dioxide capturing that currently exist and might help the town save money in addition to bringing it in line with the state's climate goals.

Having no further items to discuss, Ms. Watts asked for a motion to adjourn, which was moved by Mr. Curley and seconded by Ms. Copper. The remaining members (minus Mr. Marshall who left the meeting at 7:51pm) voted unanimously to pass the motion. Ms. Watts adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.