

Lenox Environmental Committee

Minutes of meeting: June 6, 2016

Present: Eric Federer, Suky Werman, Harriet Wetstone, Neil Purdy, Susan May

Others: Karen Romeo-Leger, Emberly Carroll, Nancy Nylen, Al Blake, Matt Chester, Michael Nathan

The meeting began with introductions of LEC members and guests.

SM outlined a project to bring green communities of the Berkshires together for a forum. The intent is to provide information, share ideas, and network with peers. CET could do a survey of green communities to assess priorities and help select appropriate speakers. Jim Barry, the Regional Green Committee Coordinator, could update everyone on state projects, support available, and grant funding.

Nancy Nylen of CET explained that New England Grassroots Environment Fund has grants in three different categories: Seed grants, Grow grants, and Harvest grants. A Seed grant is for \$250-\$1,000 and takes 4-6 weeks to be approved. Lenox received two of these grants in the past. The process is that once a grant is approved, NEGEF sends a check for the award amount. At the end of the year the grant recipient writes a report reviewing what was done. CET has an EcoFellow internship program for college graduates who could assist with grant writing.

The steps that could be taken if LEC decides to apply for a grant to assist in organizing a forum:

- Apply for a seed grant
- Do a survey of green community committees (CET)
- Identify priorities
- Select speaker(s)
- Organize forum

Al Blake, from the Becket Energy Committee, would like to have a collective organization for Berkshire committees. He is interested in Community Solar, which would allow people to get together to purchase a solar array. People would be able to purchase shares in this solar array without having to put anything on their roofs. Many roofs are not suitable for solar panels.

Discussion on the proposed forum and grant will be continued to next meeting.

HW made a motion to accept the minutes from May 2, 2016 meeting. SW seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The TriTown Board of Health public hearing on Styrofoam and plastic bags is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2016 at Lenox Town Hall.

Matt Chester and Michael Nathan from the Stockbridge Bowl Association gave a presentation on the silt problem at the Stockbridge Bowl. They are raising money to resolve this longstanding problem by building a diversion drain to get the silt out through natural processes. They will draw down the lake and hopefully the cold winter temperatures will kill off invasive milfoil. They have \$2.4 for the project and need \$2.8 or \$2.9. They are asking for CPC money from Lenox. HW made a motion and

NP seconded that LEC will support the project. The motion passed unanimously. A letter of support will be drafted.

There was no solar update.