

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
May 2, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

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

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

- A. Call to Order – The chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. To Approve the Following Minutes.
The minutes of April 5, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (Grady-Benson/Perry)
- D. Old Business.
 - 1. Solar - Municipal Applicability
 - a. John Vibert is continuing to contact vendors to explore our options.
 - b. Katy Perry suggested a solar array located at the former landfill area at Tunxis Meade may be an option to consider.
 - 2. Discuss Goals
 - a. Annual Clean Up Day
 - o Preliminary results for Clean-Up Day were discussed at the meeting. Subsequently, final totals were tabulated and are reported here.
 - o Most Successful Clean-Up Day event to date for Farmington. Nice weather and teaming with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day were positive contributing factors.
 - o Over 300 people participated in the event on April 30th and during the week leading up to weigh-in day.
 - o Approximately 5,000 pounds of garbage was collected and removed from Farmington parks, roadsides and rivers. Nice Work!!
 - o The following are the Winners in the Heaviest Haul Competition:
 - Civic Organizations: **Pack 68 with 601 pounds**
 - School Groups, Youth Sports Teams: **FHS Crew Team with 1180 pounds and Miss Porter's with 749 pounds**
 - Businesses: **EBM-Papst Inc. with 382 pounds**
 - Families and Individuals: **Steve and Diane Nelson with 471 pounds**

- b. Area of Improvements for next year
 - o Improved chart for recording total number of individuals working with group
 - o Improved chart for recording individuals with multiple entries (i.e. multiple trips by kids at Tunxis Meade)
 - o Reprint and Laminate Maps – Katy Perry has possible contact for laminating
 - o Improve the registration process to better capture all participants and locations where they are working.
 - o 'Gripper' Tools for reaching down embankment area – possibly borrow from Trails Council – John Vibert has contact
 - o Gloves to be borrowed
 - o Trash / collection bags – consider larger bags with improved durability
 - o Follow up with High School environmental teams – FHS Interact and FHS Eco Club

- c. Community Pledge – not discussed

- d. Outdoor Lighting Project – not discussed

3. Compost Bins

- a. Sales close on May 29th.
- b. The distribution date is Saturday, June 4th.
- c. Additional Marketing Efforts:
 - i. Demonstration Bins, promotion boards and flyers have all been set up at the Senior Center, the Main Library and the Town Hall lobby.
 - ii. Everbridge Announcements sent prior to each Compost lecture.
 - iii. Compost Bin sale and lecture series announcement on the Green Efforts website.
 - iv. Green Efforts Facebook notices.

- d. Tentative schedule of Educational Presentations (arranged by Cate since the meeting):
 - i. Saturday, May 7, 2016; 2pm; Main Library Community Room – Lauren Pogson
 - ii. Saturday, May 21, 2016; 11 am, Sub Edge Farm – Rodger and Isabelle Phillips

Katy Perry agreed to host the May 7th discussion with Lorren Pogson at the Library.

- e. Press Release regarding the Compost Bin sale and the Educational discussions series. The release was sent to Farmington Valley Press, Valley Life, and Hartford Courant.

- f. We discussed the online order process and discussed the pros / cons of receiving orders by check at the town. Betty confirmed with Enviro World that there is no price differential for paying by check or paying online. Shannon to accept checks at Town Hall – checks to be made out to Enviro World.
- g. Betty will follow up with Enviro World to see how the online orders are progressing.
- h. Shannon to forward previous email lists to Cate and Katy for incorporation into a Master List for email blasts.

4. Adopt A Roadway - not discussed

E. New Business

- 1. None

F. Other Business

- 1. None

G. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

Compost Lecture Series – Lecture 1

After the regular Green Efforts Commission meeting, Dan Gallagher, UCONN Master Gardener, conducted the first lecture on compost. Dan provided some insightful information on balancing carbon / nitrogen levels within your compost bin to ensure optimal performance. Dan also discussed the benefits of earthworms in your gardens.

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