

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Lenox Environmental Committee
February 3, 2020

A regular meeting of the Lenox Environmental Committee was held in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Town Hall on February 3, 2020.

Susan Wolf chaired the meeting and the following Committee members also attended: Andrew Holt, Susan May, Suky Werman and Harriet Wetstone.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting were distributed and approved with several corrections and clarifications.

Water Stations. The Committee discussed the project of adding a water station for people to refill water bottles with the goal of making it easier for residents and visitors to avoid single use plastic bottles.

Suky Werman is leading the project, and she updated the Committee on work by the Department of Public Works on the project. She reported that the DPW has selected the equipment and chosen a location in the park next to the Library. She is now working on plans for promotion and signage.

Susan Wolf noted that she has learned that the Linde Center at Tanglewood has added a water station and that she is scheduling a meeting to ask the team there to publicize the availability of that water station. She also had discussions with a town merchant who will approach their landlord about possibly adding a water station in the heart of the shopping area.

Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles. The Committee discussed the project of adding additional Town-owned charging stations for electric vehicles.

Susan May is leading the project. She and Suky Werman updated the Committee on a recent community dinner discussing the State's desire to encourage more residents to use electric powered vehicles and various technology and market issues for electric vehicles/chargers. Susan May will provide the Committee with slides from the presentation as well as a list of currently available electric car brands/models.

Susan May briefly reviewed the levels of charging stations available and estimated costs, but more data on this will be included in the materials to be distributed.

Susan May will follow up with the Town accountant to learn whether the existing charging station at Town Hall is separately metered to try and obtain data on how frequently the charging station is used and the associated costs.

The Committee discussed preliminary thoughts on potential locations for additional Town-owned charging stations.

Tree Planting. Susan Wolf updated the Committee on continuing interaction with Eversource corporate community affairs regarding a donation of trees to be planted in Town. She is hopeful Eversource will provide a written commitment by the end of the month.

Potential New Projects. The Committee discussed additional new projects that might be undertaken given the good progress being made with current projects. Andrew Holt suggested a project for the 2020 Apple Squeeze to lessen the waste produced by arranging for composting of organic waste and recycling. The Committee thought the idea was excellent if the logistics prove practical. During the discussion it was noted that in addition to reducing actual waste produced by the event, this project would help focus residents and visitors on using composting and recycling whenever possible. The Committee discussed the Lee Founder's Day event which follows such waste reduction practices, where Committee Member Harriet Wetstone has volunteered. Drew will lead the investigation of the potential structure of such a project, including contacting Peter Hoffman who led the effort in Lee.

Newsletter and Website Update. The Committee discussed the desire to update the website and to create a newsletter, perhaps for distribution at the March 3 election or the Town Meeting on May 7. Harriet Wetstone will create the newsletter, but each Committee member should provide Harriet with a first draft of items for which they have leadership prior to the next meeting. Susan Wolf will explore budget for a newsletter and the mechanics used by the Community Center for printing and distribution of their Senior Sentry newsletter. Susan Wolf will update the website with information from the newsletter.

Other Matters. The Committee discussed recent newspaper reports of progress in the ongoing regulatory and arbitration proceedings concerning cleanup of the pcbs in the Housatonic River and placement of contaminated materials removed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wolf