

Sustainability Committee
Minutes 11-27-2023

Present: Nancy, Brenda, Janet
Absent: Herb, Jeremy

- 1) Approved Minutes of October meeting
- 2) HANNAFORDS GROCERY - Nancy reported that Hannafords was passing out free re-usable grocery bags the other day. We should continue to work with them on sustainable practices in Bristol as they are a good partner.
- 3) COMPARATIVE PRICING - Committee reports were presented on cost comparisons for purchasing compostable utensils, plates, cups, and take home containers vs. plastic/styrofoam items.

Most of our research shows that compostable items are still more costly but there are places to purchase them for less than the cost of plastic. Costs for compostable utensils and containers is going down. This helps in encouraging organizations, businesses to purchase compostable/recycled items. We decided to prepare a brief report on these findings to present to TTCC, and then meet with the Town of Bristol select board with our findings. Jan found a company in Bedford, NH that is a distributor for sustainable food service items and bags. We can use their brochures to encourage support of local businesses. **Nancy will contact Les Dion at TTCC to set up a meeting. Jan will prepare a report.**

4). HHW - Herb's work on Household Hazardous Waste disposal has finally appeared on the Town webpage. We had two suggestions for clarification of language. **Brenda will contact Cade to make changes and let Herb know.** GOOD JOB, HERB!

5) PLYMOUTH ROTARY - We had received an email that Plymouth Rotary was recycling plastics along with a request to check into it. Jan reported that she had spoken with Mike Carrier at Plymouth Rotary. They are part of a pilot project in Gilford, NH to collect hard styrofoam which is made into ingots and sold to a company in Quebec which produces insulation and other materials from the ingots. This is a volunteer project that the Rotary Clubs have taken on and requires the purchase of \$3,000 bins to collect the styrofoam and a volunteer to pick it up and transport it to Gilford. There is a cost savings to the town from removing the bulky styrofoam from our waste stream. Our committee is not able to take this project on - but **Jan will report back to the email request and see if the Bristol Rotary is interested.**

6) BUZZ ARTICLES - The committee decided to contribute short Sustainable educational articles to the "Buzz" newsletter once per month. Assignments as follows:
Brenda - Re-usable bags and Washing vs. disposables; Jan - Forest Carbon; Nancy will compile dates to submit articles.

7) TRANSFER STATION UPDATES - Nothing to report.

8) UPCOMING PROJECTS - Climate Change program with Plymouth State speaker, March 19 sponsored with Minot Sleeper Library. Next Clean Up Bristol Day will be held June 1, 2024.
Jan to contact Bristol Events Committee to add to spring brochure.

9) NEXT MEETING DATE - January 16, 2024 at Minot Sleeper Library, 6:30 pm

10) Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm
Respectfully submitted by Janet Metcalf, Secretary