



MINUTES

Thursday, May 23, at 3:45pm
Newton Free Library - 3rd floor
(330 Homer Street, Newton)

Attendance: Marcia Cooper, Margaret Ford, Heather Tausig, Hilary Bialek, Allison Kelley, Julie Winsett, Kate Esbenshade, Becka Smillie, Anndy Dannenberg, Kathryn Teissier du Cros, Deanna Hoffman, Waneta Trabert

1. Earth Day / Schools / SGW updates- WE DID NOT GET TO SGW

- a. Bekah, Peirce school Earth week
 - i. Week long survey of disposables used at lunchtime. Quiz about recyclables. The knowledge base changed over the week and kids did use fewer disposables as the week went on, but not sure how long that will continue. Prize was an extra p.e. class.
 - ii. Each day a different activity: Dress like the earth; Decorate water bottles; Cleanup of grounds; Composting collection/introduction in each classroom. As a result, 2 more classrooms are now composting
 - iii. Ideas for the future: see which is the greenest classroom. Make a list of suggestions for future years and possibly share with the group/other schools
- b. Deanna, Bigelow advisories
 - i. Built upcycling sculptures. Winning sculptures on display at the school.
 - ii. All week: Announcements about green actions for students
 - iii. Launch new green team: 7 6th graders
 - iv. Start marker ([Crayola ColorCycle](#)) recycling program (all markers accepted, including white board). See <https://bigelowpto.org/2019/05/recycling-markers/>
 - v. Environmental journalism class: interviewing people involved in environmental activities. WBUR reporter will visit the class
 - vi. Post recycling signs for bins on Newton Serves day. Not much feedback from school community about it
 - vii. Ideas for the future: make tailored recycling signs for each school, if necessary; Combat disposable water bottle use. Get water bottle filling stations.
- c. Anndy, NNHS
 1. "Susfest", May 24 2:30pm on Court street side? hosted by 6 seniors: selling student upcycled jewelry; tie-dyed recycled clothes, waffle snacks. Proceeds to benefit charitable organizations.
 2. Many students are interested in advocacy about energy, food, etc. both locally and beyond. GN is working with them to enhance communication and collaboration. Students have distributed 9,000 door hangers about Newton power choice
 3. Future plans: engage students earlier.



- a. Possible connections with new 8th grade civic engagement program. Showcase event "[Newton Civics Night](#)" on Tuesday at May 28, 7pm, at American Legion Post 440? 295 California st.

action item* engaging students

Can we connect schools, especially to each other, clubs and events. use google groups? have an event/fair in the fall to engage students. Does [MA green teams](#) have this tool? student attendance at events is challenging during school hours. the information might be helpful for younger students too.

2. Recycling Policy update

- a. Heather: It passed! [\[link\]](#) The language is not very specific, but it is the first step in raising awareness and encouraging all to participate, and the first building block for a school recycling program. This is mandatory in order to have the MassDEP recycling grant.

3. Recycling issues at NSHS

- a. Kate: Concern about plastic liners in recycling bins. People are assuming recycling is not happening. How to educate the community about it?
- b. Recycling is happening but how to get the message out to students/community. David Stickney with facilities management is aware that some of the recycle receptacles look like trash bins. Can he help address this perceived problem?

4. MassDEP Recycling Grant update

- a. Waneta: School recycling grant for up to \$100k over 3 years. Likely be used for salaries/stipends for new Recycling/sustainability Coordinator and green team leaders. Liam Hurley, Asst. Superintendent, got all principals and other stakeholders to sign-on to support the grant application ([Commitment Letter template](#)). Waiting for Mayor's signature. Hope is that a Coordinator could be a permanent position in DPW and could expand duties for additional sustainability programs. Challenge is to continue funding in future years.
- b. **Other Funding ideas:** set up [textile recycling collection bins](#) outside of each school. There is a market and support for this throughout the state. Estimated revenue, ~\$20k/year?. Please share ideas about how to promote green team leaders, a requirement of the grant, what/who is needed? Can we incentivise custodians?
- c. Waneta: Working with Joana, Heather, Allison to submit the grant by June 12. Awards announced in November.
- d. Waneta is extra busy because Conni Mela who worked with her, took a conservation job for the State. She will be missed! Waneta hopes to fill the vacancy ASAP.

5. New Food Services - moving forward

- a. Joana: [Whitsons](#) will be the new provider, supposed to start in July
- b. School Committee member Matthew Miller and Liam Hurley spearheading an advisory committee to facilitate communication with Whitsons. The main goal of this group is to work about food quality.
- c. We can make some suggestions about sustainability now, but more so in the future, after they have established service



- d. Whitsons is already working with Wellesley of [School recycling and food recovery](#). [Video of Food Waste Diversion and Food Rescue Procedures](#) . More on the [Green Newton Presentation](#) should be available at www.Newtv.org

6. School Supplies - reducing and reusing ideas

- a. Joana will send information on how to reduce and reuse to distribute on the GSC website
- b. Schools can save the extra items and giveaway, maybe at the swap shop
- c. [Bigelow PTO](#) is stimulating to buy less school supplies. NNHS: empty seniors lockers and reuse what was left inside. How can we reduce stigma associated with using "old"/reusing items. Maybe Susfest can be involved

7. Plans / Goals for the 2019-2020 School year

- a. Volunteers to help plan the following potential agenda items??
- b. Meeting schedule- shall we meet the last week of August to help plan for September? We will send a Doodle to find a convenient date.
 - i. Green Teams in every School
 - 1. Williams green team needs help since Hilary will be leaving the team. Can HS students help? Timing is problematic. NSHS Wise program (an independent study Feb-June) could help? NNHS Caps program has been discontinued.
 - ii. Email forum - we will change the current "Earth Day NPS" google groups to a broader group for regular discussion and sharing of ideas.
 - iii. [New GSC Website - under construction](#). Should be ready before the Fall!
 - iv. Google groups used for Earth day activity coordination, could be expanded to all to exchange ideas, etc
 - v. Open Agenda