



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 29, at 3:45pm
Newton Free Library - 3rd floor
(330 Homer Street, Newton)

Attendance: Marcia Cooper, Joana Canedo, Margaret Ford, Sharon Cushing, Heather Friedman, Wendy Sheu, Adam Sterns, Bertha Volel, Elena Volel, Becka Smillie, Anndy Dannenberg, Kathryn Teissier du Cros, Andrew Thompson, Waneta Trabert, Erica Braman, Jenn Martin, Cindy Mapes

1. Welcome and introductions (5 min)

2. Summer updates (15 min)

- a. MassDep Grant Application
 - Application filed on 6/12; should hear back ~Oct/Nov
 - Grant is for hiring a recycling coordinator; it would help get all schools up to the same level of recycling and eventually for organics collection.
 - Separately, there is new funding by the City for composting at up to 12 schools (See section below on “School Composting”).
- b. New Food Services + FSAG
 - [Whitsons](#) is new food vendor for NPS; considering programs like “Meatless Mondays”, etc.
 - New working group (“[Food Services Advisory Group](#)”) with reps from each school to meet monthly and give feedback and comments from the parents
- c. School Sustainability Working Group (SSWG) -
 - See charter/purpose document: [Purpose and Goals](#)
- d. Textile bins at schools -
 - NPS is seeking to put a textile collection bin at each school; textile recycling to be done by [Helpsy](#), a certified B corp (\$0.11/pound rebate)
 - Idea would be to use the rebate money collected towards compensating a “Green Champion” at each school on a stipend basis.
 - This would require approval from the School Committee and also the City Council (because it involves revolving account for receipt/payment of stipends); next step is for NPS Asst Superintendent to bring in front of SC for discussion and vote.
 - PTOs need to know about this and provide support.
- e. Solar Canopies (Newton North, Mason Rice, Memorial Spaulding, Brown and Oak Hill)
 - We should provide info about this (e.g. a blurb) so we can educate the community about advances in clean energy. .
 - Currently no info about timing yet; Bill Ferguson (Co-Director of Sustainability for City of Newton) is point person for the solar projects for info. We could also try to bring him into classrooms to discuss. Marcia Cooper to contact Bill to obtain a short blurb.
- f. Bike racks and shelters



- NPS has been installing more racks, especially at the high schools to encourage kids to bike to school. We need to get in touch with Bike Newton and Nicole Freedman (Newton's TRansportation Director). This is part of one of the SSWG goals: "Promote more active and sustainable transportation to school".

g. Composting in schools

- There is funding through DPW for composting services at up to 12 schools (Angier, Zervas [piloted programs last year](#) + 10 other schools); Waneta will be seeking engaged individuals at schools interested in participating.
- The program is not to compost at the school, but to separate organics and have a vendor collect it. [Save That Stuff](#) has been working with Zervas and Angier since last year.
- However, DPW is open to different models for organics collection given the unique "eco-systems" at each school.

3. Schools updates (10 min)

- [NNHS](#): trying to partner up with [Green City Growers](#) (rooftop garden education), but needs funding. If anyone has ideas for funding, contact Anndy anndy@rcn.com
- [NNHH](#): organizing a Sustainability Day
- [NSHS \(Andrew Thompson\)](#): There's been a huge energy/demand for classes; 3 new AP Environmental Sciences courses. Co-teacher at NSHS Michael Kozuch is working on Boston Earth Day 2020 - if interested in being involved contact Andrew: andrew_w_thompson@hotmail.com
- [Bigelow](#): Bigelow science teachers led an incredible environmental journalism project in the spring; see link on [GN School Connections website](#).

4. Plans / Goals for the 2019-2020 School year (10 min)

- a. Green Teams in every School
 - If we get the MassDEP grant, it is mandatory for every school to have a Green Team registered with the MassDEP. Additional info about registering can be found [here](#).
 - We should send the PTO Council info about registering Green Teams. H. Friedman to put together draft for submission to PTO Council. (This is going to be a necessary step in order to implement SRTS Anti-Idling Program - see below).
- b. Email forum - <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/gnschoolconnections>
 - Email forum is working as a potential way to share info between meetings.
- c. Website - <https://schools.greennewton.org/>
 - Website is up and running! Contact Joana if you want to post anything or give feedback.
- d. School Committee Elections
 - Coming up; we can't endorse any candidates but we can talk to them and have a Q&A.



- We will invite candidates to come into the next meeting; let's come up with ~5 questions to ask them. H. Friedman to start a draft list of questions.

5. New projects / ideas (15 min)

- a. Safe Routes to School - Sustainable Transportation; anti-idling campaign; Charlie Card
 - Jennifer Martin, Chair of Safe Routes: Would like to merge with Green Teams at schools. Contact: jennmartin.srts@gmail.com
 - Looking for reps from Williams, Burr & Bigelow.
 - Next steps for Anti-Idling initiative: request signs from MassDEP (through Green Team program). Jennifer shared info on how to obtain signs: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HIIIF9I_pByWmza9m9TSiMQ-6FOwll4MK45CGjeeBE/edit?usp=sharing
 - Enforcement is tricky; hope is to involve kids in helping to educate/police.
 - Charlie Cards: how do we get HS kids to use the T more on the weekends? More information here: <https://schools.greennewton.org/2019/08/discounted-student-charlie-cards/>
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- b. Week of climate action in September / Climate Strike
 - Week of 9/20-27
 - 9/20: Climate strike, to be supported by GN and MOF. Spread the word. Youth are inviting adults to join. <https://schools.greennewton.org/2019/09/global-climate-strike-youth-to-adults-need-to-join-on-sep-20/>
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 - 9/22: Walk from Quincy to Weymouth re: Weymouth Compressor Station
 - Contact Marcia for more information.
- c. After-school fall forum on climate change with speakers at NNHS & NSHS and perhaps middle schools
 - Marcia/Andrew T.: Big picture initiative to educate through kids to get to Newton city residents to understand ideas around steps they need to do to combat climate change, i.e. being a sustainable citizen in Newton. Marcia to propose some dates for fall forum.
 - Experts are available to talk about these topics
 - Want more HS/MS students to understand (can we also get experts to speak to elementary school students?).
 - Needs to be during school, not after-school; this is why we need to engage SC and SC candidates.
 - Longer term: could we work into existing ecology-related education; or as part of Creative Arts & Sciences program, etc? Wendy and Heather to put together thoughts/draft a proposal on what a possible program might look like.
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6. Green Expo - October 20 @ 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (10 min)

- Idea is to have a booth for School Connections; let's get a big student presence.
- If you know a sustainable business that wants a booth, contact Marcia Cooper.

7. Open Agenda (10 min)

- There is a new newsletter specifically for our School Connections group. If you're not on it, sign-up online! And spread the word! <http://eepurl.com/gA8faT>
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- Next meeting on 9/12 (same time/location); Regular meetings 2nd Thursday of every month. Event calendar on the website: <https://schools.greennewton.org/calendar/>

Next Meeting: September 12 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm, at the Newton Free Library