

MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Adella G. Urban Administrative Office Conference Room

Members Present: Bryan Tarbell, Carol Coley, Andrea Drabicki

Present: Natasha Nau, Town Administrator

Members Absent: Carole Williamson

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Special Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2016: B. Tarbell MOVED to approve the special meeting minutes of 2/23/16 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 3:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

4.1 First Bright Ideas Grant Event: Light Bulb Exchange planning (review of demonstrations and vendor/group booths)

- Allison Jackman supplied N. Nau with a press release and flier for the Light Bulb Swap to go out to Columbia residents. The EAC reviews the flier and approves.
- Carol Coley advised that the press release does not go into the Chronicle since it is a town wide event for residents. Ms. Nau agreed.
- Allison Jackman needs to send N. Nau a final proof of the mailer that is to be sent out for review
- EAC discussed and solidified which vendors/activities will be attending the Earth Day Event
 - B.Tarbell - LEGO flash light activity for kids
 - B. Tarbell - LEGO play area of kids
 - B.Tarbell - Light bulb/energy consumption demonstration display
 - EAC - table and display board
 - N. Nau – will extend offer to attend and have a table to the following:
 - Lake Management Advisory Committee
 - Szegda Farm Management Committee
 - Joshua's Land Trust
 - Open Space Committee
 - Conservation and Agriculture Committee
- Tom Archambault Building & Remodeling - local Columbia builder
- C & R Insulation Inc. (N. Franklin) - Andrea
- Harness the Sun Solar
- The Bright Ideas Grant check came in!

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- The EAC is to reach out to other businesses to see if they would like to occupy a table at the event

4.2 Purchasing composters and green cleaning products via awarded \$5,000 DEEP grant

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- The State is considering adopting an updated Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (Solid Waste Management Plan), general statute CGS 22a-228 and associated regulations which may mandate a "pay as you throw" program for all municipalities state wide.
- Nau reviews with EAC the different composting models.
- The \$4,750 grant will be allocated as follows:
 - \$500 green cleaning supplies
 - \$1100 two medium tumbling composters - Behind the Moore School/Szedga Farm
 - \$3150 dollars left for an industrial composter
 - N. Nau is asking for additional monies to supplement the \$3100 for an industrial composter for the transfer station at tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting
- The First Selectmen has suggested that the Town offer free composting to start then potentially sell compost
- Town will have to provide outreach to residents about what organics may be dropped off and how to pick up the fermented compost

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Green cleaning products are still on the agenda
- Grant doesn't expire until Dec. 31, 2016 - N. Nau must spend the appropriated \$4,750 by the expiration date or must return the money

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Review of Clean Energy Community Action Plan Draft

Due to time restraints a detailed discussion has been tabled for next month. A brief conversation ensued about what data/graphics may be helpful as outreach materials to display at the Earth Day/Light Bulb Exchange Event. The EAC has decided that some tables and charts may be helpful illustrating energy consumption rates for town owned buildings

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

Ms. Nau will determine what graphics would be helpful to display to the public

5.2 Columbia Chatter newsletter submission

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Andrea Drabicki to write up and submit to the EAC and Ms. Nau by 3/16/16

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6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Solarize CT email

- The EAC reviewed the letter received by SmartPower, Amy Albert, alerting municipalities of the SolarizeCT program extension to all residents in the state

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Andrea Drabicki will mention in the Columbia Chatter submission

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- **None**

- 8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM. A Special Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday April 13, 2016 at 5:30 in Yeomans Hall.