Green Team Meeting Minutes

January, 2020

Attendees: Mackenzie Riegel, Monica Vail, Mark Warford, Dan Rain, Pam MacMillan, Mike Klugman, Jen Gonyea, Kate Kloss

Minutes: Mark Warford

In the News- The Green Team meeting began with a discussion about local environmental bills that were recently passed or are up for review. These include the Albany County Legislature approved ban on handing out plastic straws and utensils, except when a customer asks for them. A big win! (slide #6)

We also discussed the issues with DEC recent “exceptions” included in the plastic bag ban (Slide #7) and the upcoming vote to ban tire and garbage burning at the Ravena cement plant (slide # 8); just over the border from Bethlehem and only 8 miles away from Five Rivers Environmental Center.

Good News- our Food Service Director, Allissa Eiser, has been working on getting bottled water available to our students without the plastic (slides 10 & 11)! She will be piloting a new company that bottles water in reusable aluminum containers.

Giveaway Weekend Update- looks like this event will be happening this year! The weekend of May 15th will be “Giveaway Weekend”. People are encouraged to put reusable items at the curb for others to take and repurpose, fix, or just enjoy. Guidelines for the event will be out prior to the weekend. Although the town supports the initiative, and will publicize it in their newsletter, they do not want to take the lead at this time. So this is a Green Team event! No actual work to be done that weekend, just helping get the word out. Anyone that would like to get more involved should contact Mark!

Recyclable Plastic Bag- containers have been distributed to all schools in the district, thank you Green Team reps!!! A variety of plastic packaging, that cannot be included in single stream recycling, can be recycled in these containers. All bags are simply dropped off to outside collection bins at Hannafords on Delaware Avenue.

Green Team reps felt that encouraging community members to recycle these items themselves at Hannaford was the best option, but that we could handle any plastics that are dropped off at school. A message to our school parents will be coming out shortly by Jo Ellen at communications!
**America Recycles Day Recycling Event** - held on Saturday, November 16th which included textiles, paper shredding, and book recycling went great. Kudos to all that assisted.

**TV Shut Off** - thanks to the discussion at the last Green Team meeting, Ray Nardeli, our Director of Technology, said that the automated shutdown feature has been turned back on for all TV monitors in the district. A big energy savings!!

**CLYNK Bags** - February and March brings the CLYNK bag challenge. Schools compete for who can collect the most bags of recyclables; $1,500 and $1,000 are the first and second place prizes. Just e-mail Mark Warford for more bags or details!

**Educational Programs** - two upcoming environmental workshops for educators are listed below. Both workshops are free, and all participants receive a copy of the associated curriculum guide. CTLE credits are available. Both workshops will take place at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054. Space is limited. To register, contact us at 5Rivers@dec.ny.gov or call 518-475-0291.

**Project WILD (K - 12th grades)**
Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054
Register with Drew Hopkins at 5rivers@dec.ny.gov or call 518-475-0291 for more information. Additional information about Project WILD is at https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/project-wild.

**Project Learning Tree – Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood**
Thursday, April 9, 2020 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054
Register with Drew Hopkins at 5rivers@dec.ny.gov or call 518-475-0291 for more information. Additional information about Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood is at https://www.plt.org/curriculum/environmental-education-for-early-childhood/.

Thank you to Gina Jack; Center Director for Five Rivers Environmental Education Center!
Lab School Presentations- Lab school students did a great job presenting to all lunch periods. This year we included large pictures to help students see what items are recyclable and which are not. Food composting was also encouraged.

Upcoming Events

Litterless lunch Program- Earth Day means our annual Litterless Lunch program; all schools are encouraged to participate! Once again the Delmar Farmers Market will donate 3 gift certificates ($2.50 each) for each lunch period in your building. Green Team reps are free to add other prizes if they like. More at our next meeting!

Earth Day Recycling Event- this is by far our largest environmental event all year! We will once again be recycling electronics, metals, textiles, books, paper shredding and the town will be handing out pre-sale compost units. We basically take over the Elm Avenue parking lot and make it one big recycling station! Save the date: Saturday April 4th!

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 1st 4:00 p.m. at the MS LMC!