

GREEN SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Meeting, June 6, 2016

In Attendance: Bob Kessler, Amelia Robedee-Sydloski, George Gardner, Jeff Paige, Robina Ward

The initial discussion was about the role of the GSC in the creation of the Climate Smart Community task force. Jeff felt that this committee might be the starting place for that creation while Bob felt that it was up to the Town Board to make that request and that the Town Board had already said it was undertaking the creation of the Task Force.

Second item was the question of Neonicotinoid sprays and their affect on bees. Robina suggested that we find out if there was a state law dealing with that question. It turns out that such a law has been introduced but not yet voted on. Also, the US Senate just yesterday approved a bill which updates the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act and that may pertain to our discussion. It was brought up that many insecticides are toxic in many ways and that their use might be avoided by promotion of the use of non-toxic substances readily available in super markets. In fact, Big Y in Great Barrington is haaving a large display of these items and promotion of their use as replacements for insecticides. We will inspect their display. The conclusion of this part of the meeting was the decision to spread information townwide on these possibilities.

Amelia had attended a documentary film about the use and dangers of plastic water bottles and reported on it. This was added ro the list of information to disperse as was the possibility of offering permanent shopping bags to replace the plastic bags in use at IGA and other businesses in town.

The final discussion was about the resuscitation of the booth at the Hillsdale Farmer's Market to display and dispense all the information we had earlier discussed as well as the reinstitution of the visiting chef program that we had done previously. In the day since the meeting we have reserved a booth at the Farmer's Market and only await the organization of its contents. The chef program has been reorganized by Laura Griffin and she wants to know if the GSC has any funds that it may use for this purpose. This we must find out.

The next meeting will take place on July 11th at 5:00 PM (unless we call an earler on to implement the actions discussed above.)