

Minutes
Public Policy and Environmental Action Team
December 10, 2024 6-7 PM
via Zoom

Facilitator: Charles Skold

Minutes: Ruth Roemer

Present: Barbara Ryland, Kathy Coughlan, Sarah Braik, Dick Farnsworth, Charles Skold, John Hennessy, Mary Linneman, Meredith Tipton, Ruth Roemer

1. Diocesan and legislative updates (John, Dick)
 - a. The new leaders of the legislature are seen to be very strong despite expecting there to again be a number of new legislative action as last year. This year more substantive information must be included in proposed new bills and the date for submittal has been extended to January 11.
 - b. Signatures for new gun safety legislation are being secured in hopes of a new bill in the upcoming session. Kathy will invite Gus to join the PPEAT team.
 - c. The Presiding Bishop as well as our Bishop are encouraging conversation on the meaning of Sanctuary and what the church's position on this topic will be as well as how best to prepare individual churches.

2. Ongoing matters
 - a. Ruth completes her term of Co-Chair with today's meeting.
 - i. Sarah reiterated that she is not offering to resume the Co-Chair role but offered to take minutes in upcoming meetings. She will speak with Avery regarding use of the church's zoom link.
 - ii. Charles requests support in the form of a Co-Chair ongoing but agreed to create and forward the agenda for the January meeting.

 - b. Update on review/update of our [flier](#) (Charles)
 - i. Charles will be in touch with Dick

 - c. Any update on Window Dressers? (Sam) – Sam was not able to attend this evening, but it was noted with appreciation how much warmer the upper is now that Sam has installed the Window Dressers in those windows.

 - d. Creation Care Team (Barbara)

- i. Sarah reported that there was a table and slide show at the recent convention; there are a couple of additional Earth Keepers that have volunteered; Sarah will become the scribe for the team in January.
 - 1. Meredith shared that she has moved to St. Peter's as a parishioner and will support the Earth Keeper work there. No replacement for her role at St. Alban's has yet been announced. Meredith will encourage the Earth Keepers from the other 4 congregations (Portland/South Portland) to consider attending our PPEAT meetings.

- e. Any follow up regarding a possible follow-on book discussion (Thank God for Evolution) at St. Alban's? (Meredith) – the woman who would lead the discussion has been ill and is unsure when she will be able to pursue this topic.

- f. Food Waste Update (Ruth & Mary)
 - i. We propose beginning with the 2nd quarter for planning purposes, given the potential focus of attention that may be needed in the 1st quarter.
 - ii. Quarter 2 - Composting – possible coffee hour demo, contact local grocery stores, e.g., Hannaford's, Whole Foods, Shaw's
Quarter 3 – Garbage to Garden contact, EPA's Sustainable Management of Food, Food Stewards Tool Kit
Quarter 4 – Low Income housing extra food not used; explore redistribution via food pantries

- g. Charles/John
 - i. What information can we access about the bill aimed at supporting food waste diversion that did not make it through the funding process this year – see reference in the article?
<https://themainemonitor.org/food-waste-dep-study/>
 - 1. John informed that the person bringing the bill forward did not seek re-election but that Senator Brenner had also been a strong advocate for last year's bill (LD1009). Charles will pursue Senator Brenner and others to see if there will be a new bill brought forward.
 - ii. Maine is the only state in New England without some kind of organic recycling law – is this of any interest to PPEAT for any type of action?
 - 1. Charles also agreed to speak with colleagues in the legislature to see where this topic stands currently.

