



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, John Duggan, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Jill Gruskowski '21, Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Ethan Penn, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. Introductions

Cheryl asked student members to introduce themselves: Ethan Penn – class of 2023, Environmental Studies and Communications, Founder of the new Outdoor Recreation Club on campus.

2. Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held on December 16 at 1:00 as most members stated that they are able to attend.

4. Subcommittee Updates

- Strategic Planning

Craig noted that this group met this week. The last time they met, they discussed how to work sustainability into the General Education program. This effort will continue.

They will be reaching out to all the ESC subcommittees in order to update the ESC Strategic Plan. A method for measuring goals needs to be developed.

The group also discussed resurrecting a student sustainability ambassador program.

Greg asked about working toward having sustainable-minded Trustees. Craig has spoken with Tom Flynn about this, and he also plans to speak with Doug Smith. The Board welcomes input, but there are a lot of competing needs, such as diversity, for Board members.

- Waste Reduction

Bob noted that the group was unable to meet this month. Greg asked about competing in Recyclemania this year. Bob explained that Recyclemania is designed to be a student-run program, and there isn't enough interest or support this year.

Ethan noted that he would like to arrange hikes/clean-ups. Chanel will work with him to publicize events.

Cheryl and Michelle Lee Guiney met with representatives from Mass DEP and the company, Usefull, that provides stainless cups and take-out containers with QR codes so that they can be distributed for use, collected, cleaned and re-distributed for use, eliminating disposable containers. They would like to test pilot a program at Stonehill using stainless to-go containers with QR code technology. Usefull will not consider using our plastic green to-go containers. We can apply for a grant from Mass DEP for the microchip technology.

Greg noted that with our own Green 2Go process, we can use any container and receive a 10-cent reduction. He's unsure why we need to re-create the process.

Cheryl explained that this idea is all about tracking and accountability. Students won't be charged anything unless they are late to return a container. The containers would be scanned when returned to one of multiple campus drop-off locations. It is estimated that we would want approximately three containers per student in circulation. There are no dishwashing system constraints. In these early stages of discussion, many questions remain. The weak point in the process always seems to be residence halls. But if the program doesn't work out, we simply return the containers to Usefull. We will go back to our Green 2Go process once we are able. Cheryl offered to have a representative speak to the ESC. Greg would prefer they meet with Sodexo first.

- Communications/Marketing

A green tip on phantom energy was distributed on October 30. Thanks to Colin for all his work on this. We have more tips ready to go.

Social media messaging is a work in process.

We are beginning to work on outdoor signage for the Admission tour route, which will promote our successful sustainability initiatives. Our goal is to have several signs installed by next semester.

Cheryl noted that the Mass DEP was very impressed with Res. Life's recent *Quick and Easy Sustainability Tips* that was sent to students in October. They would like to share it with other institutions.

Bridget noted that all our signage should look similar. The Real Food and Communications/Marketing subcommittees will be meeting to discuss this shortly.

- Environmental Justice

Louisa noted that the group was unable to meet this month. They are working on a green tip to be distributed shortly.

Greg discussed the *21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge*, which will take place in April. He has received approval from the Finance Division and Latesha Fussell, Director of Intercultural Affairs. The program gives participants daily prompts to complete challenges related to sustainability, diversity and equity. Greg is committed to bringing this to campus and is looking for a sponsor. There is no cost involved. Andrea, Bridget, Chanel and Louisa are all interested in bringing the Challenge to Stonehill. Greg will get in touch with them to coordinate.

- Real Food

This group met this morning. Lucy explained that the College is now able to purchase much more locally grown food items due to our relationship with Farm Fresh RI. The Real Food group is working to label and advertise the food that is sourced locally, fairly and humanely to promote awareness and education.

We are working on our own but utilizing the Real Food Challenge database in order to add new foods to our campus.

There is a small compost project in Flynn, coordinated by Bridget Gill.

The Real Food and Communications/Marketing subcommittees plan to work together to promote these initiatives.

5. AASHE Sustainability Awards

Greg noted that several small colleges have won AASHE awards for initiatives that we have also accomplished. Should we be working towards awards? What are we eligible for? Colleges with a true Office of Sustainability can publicize and receive recognition. Since ours is a virtual office, it needs to be a group effort. We need to advertise our sustainability efforts in a manner to catch attention. This is in addition to the Princeton Review survey that earns us the recognition of being included in their annual Green College Guide.

6. Other Business

Greg noted that the PBS special *Jonathan Scott's Power Trip* is worth the watch. The program on solar power is part of the WGBH American Experience:

<https://www.wgbh.org/program/independent-lens/jonathan-scotts-power-trip>.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Next meeting:

December 16 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.

Submitted by Deb Norton