

**Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Monday, March 27, 2023

8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Katie Lloyd, Joshua Moniz '26, Laurie Mooney, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. Welcome**2. Meeting Minutes**

The February 27th meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

3. MassDEP Deconstruction Workgroup

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/reduce-reuse-rr-working-group-deconstruction-workgroup-archive>

Bruce discussed the efforts of this subgroup of MassDEP's Reduce & Reuse Working Group that works to divert construction and demolition materials from the waste stream. The Deconstruction Workgroup connects stakeholders in order to maximize the recovery of reusable materials when dismantling structures. The materials, such as doors, windows, hardware, lumber, and appliances, are then reused or sold.

J.R. Vinagro, the contractor used to dismantle Stanger Hall and Old Student Union, took a substantial percentage of materials, including brick, steel, and concrete, off campus to be separated and reused.

4. AASHE STARS

Jessa is assisting Kristi and Cheryl with their STARS reporting. Cheryl encouraged everyone who is contributing information to STARS to proceed in doing so as this is an important initiative for us all. Jessa is happy to help if anyone needs assistance.

5. Student Interns for The Farm and PLAN

<https://www.postlandfill.org/>

Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) was founded by college students ten years ago to aid other college students in tackling unsustainable infrastructure on their campuses. They provide support through leadership trainings, resources, consulting, and zero waste programming so that students can lead waste stream solutions on their campuses.

There was discussion on Stonehill becoming a PLAN member and hiring a paid student intern to head up this initiative. Laurie noted that she will have two work-study students this summer who may be able to incorporate some PLAN concepts into their work. Additionally, Katie will discuss with RAs for potential student interest in the PLAN internship. If we partner with PLAN prior to summer, they may be able to offer guidance on our compost pile project.

PLAN membership and the internship will be on the ESC's April agenda, and potential funding will be discussed.

6. **Updates**

Strategic Planning

The subcommittee will be meeting to discuss the ESC's focus for next year.

Communication/Marketing

No update.

Waste Reduction

Greg discussed the "Greening Our Move-Out" efforts that are underway. The plan is to have a collection point with three different colored containers for donations of food/canned goods, textiles, and toiletries, beginning after Easter. RA's will communicate plans to their residents.

An area will be needed to temporarily house items until they can be sorted and donated – potentially a classroom or HCC. Greg noted that high school student volunteers may assist with sorting and distribution.

Reuzzi

Cheryl discussed "Stonehill Goes Green in March." Following spring break, no disposable containers were available in the Commons. Student responses have been mixed, and at times it has been difficult for Sodexo staff. Cashiers are doing great with checking container passes. This is still a pilot program, and modifications will continue to be made. Overall, the Reuzzi usage statistics are favorable.

The Reuzzi Ambassador shifts have gone fairly well. Per student feedback, more return locations are needed, particularly in res. halls. Also, some want Reuzzi at Gigi's and The Hill. One issue is that green containers are larger, so a salad looks like a smaller portion size than in a disposable container.

The Farm

Laurie noted that they are moving forward with hens this season.

7. **Upcoming Events**

On April 4th from 4-5 pm, Greg will be participating in PLAN's Panel Discussion: Reusable To-Go Containers and Tracking Apps on Campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.