

EARTH HOUR

This year's event is scheduled for March 26 8:30-9:30 PM. This year Kate will again make a presentation to the Council and organize a Watertown event. She is hoping to organize a parade or rally with banners and candles that would pass the darkened town buildings and end with a meal in a local restaurant.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

The adhoc Community Garden Task Force is pursuing a joint effort with Watertown Housing Authority to create a community garden on a small parcel on Nichols Ave.

They are also talking with Mt Auburn Cemetery which expects to have a half acre parcel on Grove Street that could be used for some raised beds for individual use and for community education. The group will pursue whether there would be the potential for a more expansive project that could incorporate any of their other goals such as a pollinator garden, a horticultural center, a teaching garden and growing food for the food pantry.

WCES will write a grant to NEGEF to help move these projects along and can serve as advisory group to the project.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING EVENT

The Sunday Styrofoam recycling event was a very successful collaboration with the Recycling Committee, DPW, Police and WCES. We filled over half the truck with Styrofoam and 2 cruisers of food for the St Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry and learned a lot more about the recycling of Styrofoam. There is a "fake" Styrofoam out there that is a plastic that cannot be recycled; some of the packaging peanuts aren't Styrofoam and cannot be recycled anywhere (sometimes the MailBox Stores will take them for reuse) and some are cornstarch and are safe in trash or compost. The Recycling Committee is working on the town's recycling brochure and will be able to incorporate this new information.

Ways to reduce usage of Styrofoam particular for take out or leftover restaurant food were discussed.

BOTTLE BILL

Terese will report back next month on the next organizational meeting around the Bottle Bill.

ARTIFICIAL TURF

The town is in the process of deciding whether to enter into a large capital project to replace the grass at Victory Field with artificial turf. Members will review some articles on the environmental issues and forward them to the Council if they appear significant.

STORMWATER

The Stormwater Subcommittee has submitted one revised ordinance to the Town Council. Two more ordinances are currently being worked on and the committee is looking for ways to do public education on pesticides, chemical fertilizer and pet waste that find their way into the storm sewers. Since this is also an interest of the ETF, we will invite them to our February Meeting.

LINKING THE PEACE, JUSTICE, and ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

A follow up meeting of the Planning Committee will be held to further discuss items brought up in the Dessert and Discussion Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*LETF AND CCTF Next Meeting
Monday Feb 14 7:30 PM

*REAL MEAL Pot Luck
Conversation about gardening in
Watertown. Feb 20 5-7 PM
Church of the Good Shepherd

*EARTH HOUR March 26 8:30 -
9:30 PM