

Report from 5/23/17-- First Green Team Meeting of the Season

Members Present: Jean Cameron, Loretta Date, Jackie Lanum, Becky Stinson, Judith Wright,
Mary Wynn

Members Absent: Robin Cameron, Mary Harrison, Anne Lipe

Beginning discussion centered on the mission of the committee which follows: The Green Team will help the DBR community move forward as environmentally responsible citizens, thereby contributing to the development of a sustainable future. A big part of this is the recycling program, but the mission is broader. In these rapidly changing times, the more sustainable we become, the more resilience we will have. There is a strong relationship between disaster preparedness (the safety committee) and our focus both in terms of conservation and energy independence.

In the next order of business, we elected Jackie Lanum as Chair and Mary Harrison as Coordinator of Recycling. Note taking will be rotated and Becky Stinson filled the role for this meeting.

We looked back to marvel at our accomplishments from last year—the development of a strong committee with a mission statement, and best practices which describe our recycling program. The recycling program is an astounding accomplishment.

For the purpose of this report, here is some of the information to date on what we accomplished and the money saved by the park. Getting the project off the ground took about \$2,300.00. This included bins, frames, bags, totes, and a trailer with a cargo box. The park put in about \$750 which was half the cost of the trailer, now used by both the park and recycling. We had fundraising and donations for the rest of the money.

Recycling has allowed the park to reduce the number of dumpsters and we save \$186 per month for each dumpster we don't use. (So be sure to recycle...you are not only doing the right thing and can feel virtuous but the fewer dumpsters, the more we save. The lower our operating expenses, the less likely of an increase in our dues.) We did recycle paper and cardboard before but paid a company for bins and pickup (at a cost of \$72 per month). Currently the savings to the park is \$3100 per year and this could continue indefinitely. And we have a new activity on our calendar, recycle and lunch out when the trailer gets full!

This success is in major part due to the coordination and energy of our first Chair, C. J. Stevens, who shepherded it into existence, and Mary Harrison who took over when C. J. went on vacation. So many people gave money, or donated their time, or did both. There are so many of you, I'm bound to miss someone, so would everyone who donated either time or money, please stand. We need to thank them all. Also, kudos to all the Winter Warriors who tested and refined the system to make it work.

We will continue to work on recycling. Mary has people who have volunteered to cover each day of the week to see that the bins are empty and that the bags are put on the trailer. We need some new signs for the bins. We will continue to educate the community so the operation continues smoothly.

One addition: Linda Rogers will take larger items that people want to donate, recycle, or (if all else fails), take to the dump. She goes to Port Angeles once a week and, if needed, can take her pickup.

For the rest of the meeting, we looked back at the items developed from the Community Brainstorming “Long Term Goals” (September 2015) that might be related to the Green Team and narrowed the focus to a few of them.

5 possible additional projects for 2017:

- Nature Trail Projects

The Nature Trail is valuable for protecting our water resources and wildlife as well as our enjoyment. We appreciate the policy that all dogs be on leashes in our forested areas and would like to add to the signage that this is both a Nature Trail and Wildlife Habitat. This could be a team effort utilizing skills of our members and tools we already have, organizing work parties, perhaps 1x month to address the areas with water problems and, perhaps, gradually expand a walking trail thru the tunnel, into our parcel south of the hwy. (IS this our property? Becky will bring the maps from the county of our 3 parcels of land) and we will attempt to locate our corners.)

GreenTeam could educate and encourage DBR women to really appreciate just what a valuable resource our forest is.

- Planting more trees and shrubs will mean less mowing and more O2 to the air. Plants that actually provide food for us will be of highest priority.

Becky has offered to donate some of her many potted plants for DBR common properties. She has small trees, shrubs, and many flowering perennials. Some of the larger plants can be located at our east and west boundaries to create more of a buffer between us and neighbors, not be in the way of Barb's mowing, and adding beauty and wildlife potential to our green spaces. Larger plantings can be designed to enhance or hide certain views. Becky volunteered to attempt to locate and bring to a meeting maps of existing power and water lines. (This discussion can ultimately blend into discussion of a possible location for a community garden(s), including a functioning composting system, and a future greenhouse-far too much for us to consider this year.)

- Clothes line to help reduce the electricity use by DBR. This is one of the top 10 personal ways of saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions for the planet. We will research its best location for efficiency and so it is not unsightly.

- Connect with local environmental groups to link us with community and allow us to benefit from the things going on the peninsula. Jackie L. volunteered to research and share info on this. This info could be shared via web site.

- Green presentations: Explore the possibility of doing some sort of fun things during the summer, esp. during the Annual Weekend in August. The more we know about our natural environment, the more we care about it, the more incentive there is to take care of it.

Possible topics are:

Reports from the Forestry Workshop day that the park sent 4 of us to last summer.

Barb: continued tours of the in-come and out-go of our water resources (well and septic).

Plant walk, tree walk, ethnobotany walk, edible/medicinal plant walks, maybe just some basic plant ID walks. Possibly allowing golf carts on the 1st part of the lower trail to allow access for women who don't walk into our forest.

We may meet more often at this beginning of the season, in order to decide on priorities, decide what is realistic, etc.....possibly weekly for a while, on Tues. evening.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY MAY 30 6:30PM OFFICE