OSEAN Meeting Minutes

2020-12-08

*Ottawa South Eco Action Network is a group of volunteer environmental activists working in*

*Ottawa South. Our aim is to support people in our area who are taking action in motivating and*

*enabling others to become low waste households, protecting green spaces and wildlife,*

*combating climate change, and encouraging the government to pass more sustainable*

*legislation. We believe in thinking globally and acting locally.*

In attendance: Marianne, Erin, Heather, Kat, David

Regrets:, Aija, Manuel, Kari-Anne

**Item 1: November Social follow up and January Social**

November Social

* 12 attendees, largely Forces for Nature members.
* discussed a variety of subjects and information shared about what OSEAN is doing.
* Austin (Forces of Nature) started Try-a-Bike: bike route to encourage adults on bikes;
* Forces of Nature people have been filling out a Google Doc for X-mas trees for goats initiative.
* Hard to do back and forth as only 1 speaking at a time on Zoom meeting but still has value.

First Newsletter to the wider OSEAN group sent out yesterday.

January online social: Tuesday January 12, 2020

possible themes:

* ask us anything; or
* Create a character from the type of people that live in our neighbourhood and create a scenario of what an engaged person might look like, how to make their life more sustainable, how to improve their lives and their environment.

*ACTION Item: Kat will work on a scenario.*

**Item 2: Climate Update from Dave**

Federal Economic Statement mentioned money for home retrofits, NRCan will carry the ball, awaiting future announcement for details. Retroactive to Dec 1, 2020.

Notice from Envari/Hydro Ottawa promotion for Heat Pump, 40% off -will trial low temperature heat pumps - Marianne and Dave signed up.

How to promote Energy Evolution (EE) initiatives:

* Ottawa Eco Talent, pairs you with an expert. Pair one of us?
* EnviroCentre
* Graphic Novel - is there funding for that? Kat's company eventually will do animation, comic strips with backstory, sequential art, are applying for grants.
* concierge idea through Eco-Talent?
* Co-Energy - OREC, questions for them: whether they consider this work part of their energy efficiency initiative.
* Barriers to implementing EE plan by residents: there is a disconnect between public's knowledge and when money comes between the producers and consumers, how to connect people; not very visible; paperwork; have to pay up front.
* Instructional colouring book, a story written by partnerships and mentorships, getting kids into art. Could get a grant.
* Green Ottawa website: see below

Dave knows someone in the geothermal industry with lots of connections. Geothermal heat pumps make economic sense for commercial or new builds like new subdivisions or any large building like condos, etc.

Energy Evolution's plan is to require sustainable options during the city permitting process to push builders away from gas heating; Enbridge is pushing back hard and have a lot of influence. A subsidiary of Enbridge is doing geothermal.

Not something that Osean would have much influence in right now.

**Item 3: Christmas Trees for Goats.**  This year, working with the Riverside Park Community Association, we can collect Christmas trees at our local rinks (at Paget Park and Arnott Park), but COVID has been hard on a lot of farmers and we are having difficulty finding farms that have goats/sheep that would want Christmas trees. One farmer is going to the dump to get her trees. Ornaments may sicken goats. Another Forces of Nature person asked 6 farms but haven't found anyone. Kat and Marianne might mulch the trees using a company or person with a chipper machine or rent a chipper at Home Depot.

*Action item: Marianne to follow up on getting a chipper/mulcher.*

**Item 4: City website and videos**

Green Ottawa (Erin):

* Green topics need to be all together on the City website.
* Heather wrote to Cloutier's assistant about a Green Ottawa web portal who said he would look into it to see if this is already being created.
* Erin's relative works at City and suggests writing to the problem link (*What is wrong with our page*) at the bottom of city websites.
* Email Riley to suggest Green Ottawa website and say lots of people are petitioning to have a Green website and to offer assistance, ideas and give feedback.

*Action Item: Erin will draft a short letter for sending to the City's problem link and Marianne will send it out to Forces of Nature (OSEAN's action-oriented FB Group - 75 members) to amplify.*

*Action item: Erin will send an email to Riley to request a Green Ottawa web portal as above.*

Videos: (Erin) Lots of people want to sign up to be videoed about sustainable topics; a friend's son is in video production giving Erin tips on how to make easy videos; want short 2-minute videos to hold viewers' attention; could divide a longer video into 2-minute segments perhaps by questions about a topic.

People are interested in cost, payback period, insurance, rebates.

Dave offered to do a geothermal video.

Heather offered to do a video on her electric car.

**Item 5: Letter from Jagmeet Singh**

Erin received a reply to a letter to Jagmeet Singh on climate change and what is needed.

*Action item: Erin will share the letter from Jagmeet Singh through Osean\_Exec.*

**Item 6: Road salt alternatives education** - article submitted to Ottawa Citizen by Marianne. Other options might be local newsletters and FB groups.

**Item 7: Single Use Plastic Ban** - Deadline to comment Dec 9th!

**Next meeting: Tues January 19, 2020**