

Meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee, April 11, 2016, Town Hall.

Present:

Sarah Brophy
Susan Blacklow
Chandrani Ghosh
Barney Rush
Francis Kline
Elizabeth MacDonald
Paul Magnusson
Vicky Taplin

Absent:

Julia Craighill
Jay Endleman
Gabrielle Fontana
Cindy Tewksbury

The committee discussed noise regulations in the town, particularly relating to leaf blowers. There was discussion of whether the town should consider bans on gas-powered leaf blowers. Some members of the committee suggested that the town could require landscapers to exclusively use electric leaf blowers. Other members observed that since electric leaf blowers are less powerful, this would result in less noise but for longer times. In addition, the committee discussed whether bans on gas leaf blowers would have a desired effect because vendors would be able to bypass the town, increasing costs and resulting in a negligible benefit for the environment. This led to a discussion of the benefits of organizing at a county-wide, rather than town-wide, level, because it would create a broader set of reforms and could not simply be avoided by vendors taking their business elsewhere. Follow-up items were to determine how the town communicates with other towns in the county about items of broad interest.

In addition, there was a presentation on the Montgomery county noise ordinance, which in the view of some committee members was quite robust and could be enforced with an app for a smartphone. In addition, there was discussion of how to publicize the environmental initiatives in which the town is engaged.

The committee adjourned [at 8:30pm](#).