



### **General Meeting**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

6:00pm, Student Lounge

Attendance: 12

Next Meeting: March 8, 2017

### **Meeting Agenda:**

- Yale Conference
- Education Committee update
- Solutions Conference update
- Earth Week update
- Environmental issue

#### **1) Yale Conference**

- Is this Saturday. Registration has closed, but Brianna will email to see if other people can still come.
- Brianna, Dani, and Cody Stryker are going. Carpooling encouraged!
- Bill McKibben will be there! An author for Legal Adaptation to Climate Change will be there too.

#### **2) Solutions Conference Update**

- ELS Panel: Flint, Michigan, crisis with VT case studies.
- Panelists: Shaina Kasper (from Toxics Action Center); Quintin Pear; & Martha Judy (VLS professor and CERCLA expert).
- If you want to get involved, email Brianna or Maggie.
  - o We could use ideas for a hashtag!
  - o Bring some hashtags with you for our next meeting!
- The Conference is Friday, March 24. Sign up for the event on Eventbrite at the following link:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridging-the-gap-between-the-promise-and-the-reality-of-environmental-justice-tickets-30616513817#tickets!>

#### **3) Education Committee Update**

- Went to Sharon Elementary yesterday to visit with the fifth graders. First visit so far.
- Highlight: presented kids with various hypotheticals on environmental issues to see how they would solve them. Hearing their perspectives was cool.
- Plan to incorporate more law and policy as they keep going back.
- Kids were generally excited, except for Susan's group. Apparently, all kids have phones these days.
- Plan to get them involved in an artwork for the Solutions Conference.
- All are welcome to come! The Committee will go Tuesdays & Thursdays between 1 and 2 pm. They plan to stay at the school for 45 minutes for activities. That leaves enough time to be back for 2:10 classes.

#### **4) Earth Week Update**

- Campus Greening Committee wants to collaborate on a tree planting event. Plan is vague. Basically, get 1 tree and plant it somewhere. Will most likely be on the community service day during Earth Week events.
- Susan has reached out to nurseries to see if they would donate a tree. We might have to buy one. Let Susan know if you have any suggestions/preference on what tree we should get. The tree cannot be an invasive species.

- Other ideas:
  - o Let's plant a grove that grows each year.
  - o Have someone dress up as a swan and plant the tree.
  - o Get a chia swan.
  - o We could use ideas for a hashtag!
    - #arbitricious has been taken...
    - #sustainableswans
    - #ilovevermontlaw
    - #swansgogreen
    - #elsvls
    - #soroswans
- T-shirts
  - o Ordering
    - \$8.05 per tee. We're rounding up to \$10 to cover the cost of the tie dying materials. Takes 2 weeks to order/ship. To get an idea for how many shirts, we're going to send out a Doodle poll to the school.
  - o Tie dying.
    - ELS will tie dye their shirts ahead of time so that we can wear them when everyone else tie dyes theirs. We also want to sell some of the tie-dyed shirts ahead of time. Want to sell tie dyed shirts to the SoRo community as well.
  - o Plan is to wear tie-dyed shirts during community service day.
  - o Joe suggests we get bro tanks. No one seems too enthused. T-shirts it is.
- Talk to Kate if you'd like to help out. They need help to plan DIY activities and questions for the environmentally-themed trivia. Also, they need ideas for a hashtag!

#### 5) Environmental Issue

- Liz brought an energy topic for discussion.
- Massachusetts has a new bill to go 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2050. Right now their commitment is 20% renewable by 2020.
- The bill describes the goal and sets up several task forces. The plan involves creating jobs and creating an education outreach program on renewable energy. All administrative agencies/departments are required to go through their budget and existing rules to see where they can increase renewable integration. The bill targets environmental justice communities, which they refer to as "gateway force work cities." These are low- to moderate-income cities that will be given preference for funding (from existing alternative compliance programs) & job opportunities.
- If you have any questions or want to converse, talk to Liz!
- General approval to continue discussing an environmental issue at the end of our meetings.
- Volunteer to bring a topic to our next meeting: Joe! Thanks Joe!

Questions, comments, ideas? Email [cmikatstevens@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:cmikatstevens@vermontlaw.edu)!