

Earth Our Mother Committee Meeting
30th June 2025, 7pm
Beltonia and Online

Present: Sarah Barr - Session Facilitator (SRB), Alex Alderton (AA), Seb Lemaire (SL), Mairi McKay (MMK), Marc MacPadraig (MMP)

Apologies: Bob Ball (BB), Tamsyn Ball (TB), Kat Bradley (KB), Maddie Bromfield (MB), Nel Coleman (NC), Giulia Frontalini (GF), Newton Harper (NH), Mailis Marty (MMR), Simone McKenzie (SMK), Sophie McCarthy (SMC), Siri Pantzar (SP), Sammi Searle (SS)

Minutes: MMK

1. Review minutes of last meeting - 29/05/25

The minutes from 29/05/25 were approved with no amends.

2. Review Action Log

Outstanding and In Progress actions assigned to present members were reviewed, with the assumption that anything not highlighted in green is not being prioritised.

#50 Community bike repair schemes: SL no update but keen to do. Lauriston Farm has Dr Bike bike repairs where you can hire them to do free repairs. They have fairly regular open days

#49 Imbolc seed swap: SRB is researching seed library but not prioritising

#47 Litter pick: SRB to give an update later in the meeting

#46 Feasibility of inviting group proposals related to starting Beltane communities elsewhere: MMP "I should probably write that down"

#45 Build your own Beltane blog: SRB added resources to the Drive. A lot of stuff was already done thanks to the online BFS festivals (Bonfire).

Question: Who has full access to the Drive? SRB hesitant to share full details on Discord, but all are welcome to request access. Password shared with several group members already.

#22 Green banking: SL to summarise and translate interesting French bank stuff

#18 Almanac: SRB is struggling to get people to commit to a date. Aiming to do this in time for Samhuinn - could be timed according to pre-GO weekend. Some discussion about whether two things on the same day would help or hinder attendance. MMK suggested picking a date for an edit-a-thon at Beltonia, and sharing via Bugle etc - society-wide, not just EOM members. AA willing to facilitate. Hybrid/online submissions would be welcome; SL suggested using an online whiteboard for collaboration eg figma.

ACTION: pick date in August to host event in Beltonia. Check with Board & Blues to find most appropriate calendar dates. (AA/SRB)

#16 Online free shop: currently Tom has a spreadsheet of things in Beltonia. SL pointed out that various local Community Tool Libraries use web-based library hosting software eg My Turn. SRB noted that maintenance of this would be a big job for eg a Community Organiser. Clarified the meaning of Quartermaster. SL noted that Photopoint at some point wanted to photograph the Beltonia inventory. Discussed practicalities of recording inventory before/during/after Beltonia relocation. SL to look into My Turn.

3. Projects

3.1 Update on July litter pick and balsam bash

The landowner AMA Homes owns the golf course up the hill (South Side) and at the time of the meeting hasn't responded to SRB's emails. SRB did get permission for a balsam spot near Hen Party site. There's a test site nearby for rust fungus that we've to stay away from (Park Services). SRB will get a printout of the email permission and has amassed all the litter-picking stuff she can find from Beltonia & has a first aid kit. Other tasks: Risk assessment completed but needing checked, member's list email ready to send out but needing checked, blurb for discord event to be written. Event to take place on Sunday 13th July.

4. Planning Discussion - Community Sustainability Survey

Survey Aim: BFS member survey to make sure we're on the right track as EOM and guide out activities and priorities. Identify community knowledge, what matters to our members, what they want to know etc. This would be separate from an audience survey.

SL cautioned that we should be careful not to base our full planning on survey results, as we also know stuff!

SRB suggested we brainstorm questions/things we might want to include in the survey:

- SRB: figuring out events people would like (eg litter pick, tent mending, etc). Group discussion on how to phrase/prioritise (multiple selection, preference ranking, phrasing it as specific to now ie "what would you like to do before next Beltane")
- AA: don't forget less practical events - talks, inviting other charities, climate cafe, Active Hope
- SL: ask members to rank their knowledge in different capacities, framed using several set categories, and asking which categories they would like to know more about
- AA: are we sticking to people's Beltane lives or beyond? SRB: maybe focus on informing what we can offer/do. SL: results can help us decide on a format for training etc
- SRB: share information about pipeline projects and invite comments, resources, sharing knowledge of previous work etc
- SRB noted that we should be careful regarding things that could be controversial (beloved food vendors, fuel for fire) so that we don't action something that makes everyone hate us! SL pointed out that fuel is nothing compared to food, but fire is very visible. MMK mused that being able to share data on this might help, but it

would involve getting figures from Tom, which might slow things down. SRB suggested using next month's meeting as a deadline

ACTIONS: request figures from Tom/Board, start drafting a survey, create a google form for mailing list signup, schedule a date to send the survey, schedule a date to and close the survey & process the data. Soft deadline of 23rd July (???)

- SL suggested a quick poll at the Open Meeting, voting in boxes (using ducks, seeds/beans in flowerpots). Much enthusiasm from everyone about this idea! This would complement the formal survey (and hopefully drive up engagement), which would close a week after the Open Meeting. There is willingness to process the results before the Sept EOM meeting