

Recycling and Sustainability Committee meeting 12/8/16 7:00Pm

Present; Mike Wilson (Chair), Punnie Edgerton, Holly Greene, Caron Grich, Debbie Atwood, Marianne Haughwout, Ben Martens, Jennifer Hicks, Sarah Brayman (Council Liason), Jay Astle (Town Staff Liaison), Sarah Rodgers (Guest)

Mike opened the meeting at 7:05Pm; 4 items on the agenda.

Sarah Rodgers, speaking as a parent at Coffin School, expressed concern that recycling in the schools was not being encouraged. Jay suggested that a meeting with Scott Smith, the School Department's new facilities director might be helpful and offered to arrange one. Marianne will be part of a small group to meet with him, along with Sarah R. and/or other parents.

Caron mentioned that she witnessed non-recycling going on at the hospital. Marianne and Punnie said that they would go to the hospital to check with trash issues there.

Mike distributed a draft Waste Reduction Strategy for the Town, outlining various steps that might be taken to prevent material from entering into the waste stream or, at least, keep it out of the landfill. He reported that the Town is working with the State of Maine to close the Graham Road Landfill within the next five years. Mike and Punnie are members of the task force monitoring that process.

Ben said that information on the types of material in the waste stream and what happens to each type would be helpful in developing specific strategies. Mike said such information is probably available from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, among other sources, and that he would do further research on the matter. Debbie wondered what items on the plan that Mike presented might be actually reasonable in terms of what we can accomplish, given the fact that the committee is composed of volunteers who meet once a month.

Sarah B. noted that two items she would like see addressed are the rewrite of the 1993 recycling ordinance and the possibility of a town-wide compost program. Jennifer asked if there were waste auditors for towns that might have information on costs, both to residents and the municipality. Ben noted that outreach and education along with recognition might serve as incentives. Debbie discussed how, when and where to get sustainability ideas in front of the public. Sarah R. suggested that we pull in like minded groups to help drive some of our plans; Brunswick and Topsham Land Trust, Settlemire Community Gardens, etc. Mike will be inviting a Pinetree Waste representative, Karen McNaughton, to our January meeting to provide that company's perspective on the feasibility of the various options discussed.

Punnie reported on the status of the single use bag ordinance currently before the Town Council. The Committee has endorsed a proposal in which a five cents fee is imposed on both paper and plastic bags in stores where a substantial percentage of revenue comes from food sales. The version currently before the Council would ban plastic bags, leave paper ones alone, and apply to all retail stores. Sarah B. noted that the next meeting of the Council is on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, at which time they will consider holding a public hearing on the issue in early 2017. After discussion, Ben made a motion to send a letter to the Town

Council that we endorse the ban on plastic but that we would like to see a fee on paper bags as well to provide a stronger incentive for switching to reusable bags. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this motion. Mike will prepare the letter.

Ben spoke of a weatherization program that the town of Rockland is currently using. Ben is meeting with the people involved with this program and will bring back details to share at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:40Pm; Next meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall, 7:00PM