

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, May 24, 2022 - 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Via Electronic Devices

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|---|---------|
| 1. Call to Order / Intros | 5:00 PM |
| 2. Administrative | 5:05 |
| • Approval April 26 th Minutes | |
| • Meeting Time / Venue – Follow-Up – Jamie/Discussion | |
| • Proposed changes to the Town Council’s Appointments Committee, how it effects Advisory Committees | |
| 3. Proposed Sub-Committees & Assignments – Jamie/Steve | 5:20 |
| 4. Solid Waste Updates - Jay A | 5:35 |
| • Ecomaine/Casella Agreements & Timing | |
| • Draft budget | |
| • Other updates | |
| 5. Organics Initiative, Execution Update - Eliza | 5:40 |
| 6. Energy Subcommittee Report - Steve Weems | 5:50 |
| 7. Comprehensive Plan Update – Bina Skordas | 6:05 |
| 8. Public Comment** | 6:25 |
| 9. Adjournment | 6:30 PM |

Call-in information for public comment:

Dial-in #:929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 819 5413 8556

Passcode: 155222

To request a video link to watch or participate, please contact jastle@brunswickme.org.

** Comment can be given at this point in the meeting via the Zoom dial in number provided during the televised meeting. Alternatively, written comments in advance of the meeting can be sent to jastle@brunswickme.org and they will be read aloud at the appropriate point in the meeting.

MINUTES
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
26 APR 22

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jamie Ecker at 5:05 PM.

Members present: Rep. Poppy Arford, Jamie Ecker (Chair), Jennifer Hicks (Secretary), Harry Hopcroft, Thomas Rumpf, Steve Weems (Vice Chairman), Stephen Wood

Town personnel present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Eliza Blood (Organics Recycling Coordinator), Steve Walker (Town Councilor), Kathy Wilson (Town Councilor)

Public present: Bill Good

Introductions of Committee Members and Town Personnel: Personal introduction provided by each person in attendance.

1. Administrative

Minutes from March 22, 2022: Steve Weems offers language change in the agenda item called “Ecomaine/Casella agreements and the upcoming Town Council Mtg” to say: *The Town Council will consider solid waste recycling and disposal options at its April 4 meeting. The recommendation that will be presented by the Town Manager will be consistent with the Committee's recommendations, as set forth in its February 23 memo to the Town Manager and Town Council.*

Tom Rumpf moves to accept with change, Seconded by Steve Weems. Minutes approved unanimously.

Committee & Subcommittee Membership

Poppy Arford has become the newest member of the committee. Chrissy Adamowicz has stepped down from committee as a result of taking a job with the Town of Brunswick. Steve Walker explained that the practice of staff not serving on a town committee is longstanding policy. Currently looking for two more members to fill vacancies. One application has already been submitted. Jamie asks the committee to get the word out for new applicants

Motion by Steve Weems: Poppy Arford to join Energy subcommittee

Discussion: The sub committee currently has 4 members and could trigger quorum issues resulting in the requirement for a public notice in order to meet.

Motion tabled

Action: Jamie to follow up with John Eldridge to confirm quorum requirements for Town advisory committees

Current Subcommittees Discussion: Public Education, Organics Recycling, Solid Waste Options, Energy. General agreement we should revisit subcommittees and assignments to ensure balance.

Action: Jamie to work with Steve Weems on subcommittee assignments, and bring back proposed assignments at the next meeting.

2. Solid Waste Updates – Steve Weems, Jay Astle

Report from Jay Astle on New Agreements: Town staff are still planning on a July 1 start date with ecomaine and new contract with Casella for collection & swap. Staff has the latest contract from ecomaine and it is currently being reviewed by the town lawyer. Jay is optimistic the plan will come together.

Town Budget: Draft town budget process is ongoing and public works has presented a budget proposal to the Town Council. Jay has included continuation of the recycling position in FY 22-23, as well as all relevant costs associated with new ecomaine and Casella agreements.

3. Organics Subcommittee Report - Eliza Blood, Town of Brunswick Recycling Coordinator

Update on the implementation of DEP waste diversion grant:

- Press release announcing organic recycling initiative went out
- Composting bins & kitchen caddies that the Town will sell have been ordered.
- Eliza has developed a presentation for scheduled public education programs. Concurrently, public meetings and tabling events calendar is beginning to fill with dates starting in early May, kick-off.
- Coming into a less “quiet” phase, getting active with social media posts.
- 2nd food waste drop off site is scheduled to be ready at the Recreation Center (MRRA) by mid-May.
- Data tracking tool (spreadsheet) has been set up to track monthly progress toward 200 ton diversion goal

Harry Hopcroft asks about how the bin sale works and how it will be determined who can get one: Jay Astle said they will be sold at a 50% reduced cost to residents. Kitchen caddies will either be free with a sold bin or used as a “give-a-way”. 125 composters, 250 caddies. There hasn’t been a determination about who will get to purchase them. There is discussion about promoting and potentially selling items on the website. Harry suggests that there is a separate webpage for selling items.

Discussion about inexpensive ways to encourage people to set up composting bins (either purchasing from town or building one with chicken wire).

Action: Organics subcommittee to look at number of bins and kitchen caddies that are being purchased to sell to residents and look to better align with overall households that are targeted to divert food waste (750 is the number estimated in the grant to get to the 200 ton diversion target).

4. Education Subcommittee Report - Harry Hopcroft

Subcommittee chair, Harry Hopcroft, has been working with Organics Recycling Coordinator, Eliza Blood, to come up with an approach to directly reach out to the public regarding organics recycling. Currently using social media platforms but need better access to the town website and find ways to make education materials widely available to the public. Jamie Eckert suggests that the switch to ecomaine will be a catalyst to revisit use for public education with the town website, and we can link to Ecomaine’s vast resources and not have to recreate on our own.

5. Energy Subcommittee Report - Steve Weems

Focus of subcommittee energy efficiency, access to clean/renewable sources of power. fills the need for a town addressing energy sustainability. Three primary focus points:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory for entire town (last one is over 10 yrs old, and has limitations)
- Launch technical and educational service to introduce town residents to ways to reduce their carbon footprint
- Establish a Municipal Utility District (note that MRRA already has one of ten in the entire state)

Committee is currently working to develop recommendations for each of the areas of focus.

6. Other Business:

Steve Weems asks whether meetings will start to be held in person. Jay says that in person town-related meetings have started across the board and it is a matter of finding out if Room 206 has capability to be recorded live. Council chambers is the only room that can conduct a hybrid meeting.

Action: Jamie and Jay will work to determine if committee meetings can be held in person.

Harry Hopcroft moves to adjourn, Stephen Wood seconds.

Adjournment - 6:00 PM

DRAFT

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee

Proposed Subcommittee Structure & Topic Areas

1. Recycling & Waste Management

- Single Stream Recycling
- Organic Materials (e.g. food waste, leaf & yard waste)
- Other recyclables and waste streams (e.g., metals, electronics, wood waste)
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Bulky waste
- Waste reduction
- Extended Producer Responsibility

2. Sustainability & Energy

- Carbon footprint analysis
- Energy efficiency
- Clean, renewable energy initiatives
- Beneficial electrification initiatives
- Carbon reduction & credit services
- Financing & technical assistance

3. Education & Communication

- Informational materials
- Website design and content maintenance
- Print & social media outreach and communications
- Promotional and educational events

Membership & Meetings:

- Minimum 3 R&S Committee members on each Subcommittee
- Each R+S Committee member must serve on one Subcommittee
- Any member can participate/audit in any Subcommittee meetings of which they are not a member. However, quorum rules triggering formal notice and other rules must be observed when necessary.

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee

Sustainability & Energy Subcommittee

Updated May 18, 2022

Members:

TBD

Mission: Define sustainability and energy issues in Brunswick, set priorities, make recommendations, and take action in pursuit of the following goals:

- Improve sustainability of life, while reducing resource consumption;
- Reduce town-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Use energy more efficiently; and
- Facilitate the conversion to clean, renewable sources of power (i.e., beneficial electrification).

Definitions: “*Sustainability*” means actively balancing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality to meet the town of Brunswick’s current needs while enduring the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

“*Beneficial electrification*” means converting our sources of power from those derived from fossil fuels to electricity produced from clean, renewable resources; for transportation, space heating and cooling, powering equipment, electricity generation, commercial and industrial processes, and other uses of energy.

2022 Work Priorities: The members of the Energy Committee propose that the following activities be given priority during 2022.

1. Develop a “carbon footprint” (an updated, comprehensive GHG emissions profile for the town of Brunswick – all sectors and activities) – using carbon-emission equivalents as the basic unit of measure;
2. Deliver or facilitate technical and educational services to Brunswick residents to provide knowledge and access to specific steps they can take to conserve energy and convert to electricity from clean, renewable sources;
3. Create the municipal infrastructure necessary to establish a commercial property-assessed clean energy (“C-PACE”) loan program in Brunswick; and evaluate the feasibility of a residential property assessed clean energy loan program; and
4. Monitor the possibility of establishing a municipal electric utility district in Brunswick, with the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA).