

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee Minutes
Tuesday 01/28/20, 6:30 -8:30
Room 206, Town Hall

Present:

Committee members: Chrissy Adamowicz, Marie Caspard, Jamie Ecker, Jennifer Hicks, Harry Hopcroft, Kay Mann, Steve Weems, Stephen Wood, Juka Zolas

Town representatives: Jay Astle, Director of Public Works, Steve Walker, Town Councilmember

Meeting Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Introduction of New Member:

Steve Wood welcomed by committee members. Steve's landline preferred for communications.

Review & approve minutes from Dec 19, 2019:

Jamie suggested the following modifications:

- Guidance on communications outside committee is broad & not exactly what was referred to in that minutes. Delete these, and add guidance page.
- Alex Anesko's name spelled wrong

Steve Weems suggested the following modifications:

BCA should be spelled out Bowdoin Climate Action plan should be spelled out, Sunrise should be Sunrise Bowdoin, HBS should be Harriet Beecher Stowe School

Motion by Jenn, seconded by Kay. Minutes of Dec 19, 2019 were approved with corrections. Unanimous, except Steve Wood abstains

Reports from Previous Meeting:

Jenn: asked for a volunteer to help with raw notes, Harry volunteered to help clarify and format them. Marie will send them to both Harry and Jenn

Modification of December minutes will be verified with Jenn

Jay: Verifies that 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. will work for a permanent meeting time.

Jenn, Jamie, and Steve Weems: Met Jan 4 to revise the proposed structural outline proposal to be discussed below.

Matt Panfil, Director of Planning and Development: presentation on upcoming Town of Brunswick comprehensive plan update

Wrapping a review of the 2008 plan (an inventory of where the town is and where the town wants to be)

Focus is typically land-use, but it has grown to be somewhat more comprehensive Ex: facilities for schools, resources for growth are addressed

Chrissy: Is it ok to exceed State requirements?

Matt: Yes, it's typically it's expected

Researching other plans is great: Comprehensive Plans (CPs) of local communities and award winners from the Maine and American Planning Association are on the Brunswick Website (esp Portland)

Action items assigned by the Plan to different committee, Recycling & Sustainability Committee charged with "Increasing recycling efforts throughout the town"

Upcoming Events: February: Matt's committee Developing a vision statement for revised Comprehensive Plan with new goals and new action items.

Action Item: committee members are asked to go to www.planbrunswick.org to see examples of comp plans and come up with a list of things that could be included in Brunswick's plan that could address areas related to Recycling & Sustainability.

Action Item: Asking Recycling and Sustainability Committee members to make themselves available for the following events and opportunities for public input and report back to the committee:

Community vision workshops: Thursday Feb 6, 6-8 PM at the Brunswick High School Cafeteria & Saturday Feb 8, 9-11 AM at St. John's Community Center

Presentations & Discussions: Wed Feb 5 *What is Plan Brunswick?*, Wed, Feb 19 *Climate Change Panel Discussions*, Thurs Feb 20 *Housing Panel Discussion*, all at Curtis Memorial Library at 6-7:30 PM

New Comprehensive plan to be approved by Nov 2020. Want to have this plan approved by Nov 2020

Finding of consistency by the state with the Growth Management Act lasts until Nov 2020, but doesn't necessarily mean the plan has expired

Draft document with more detail on the Action Items coming online by the early Feb 2008 Comprehensive Plan's Action Items are complete or in process, not very specific with deadlines

Sustainability is an element that is largely missing from the 2008 plan

Kay: How much teeth does the Comprehensive Plan have?

Matt: Capital improvement projects must comply with comprehensive plan

Some of the feedback received: town needs to do more with regards to climate change, housing, bicycle and pedestrian networks

Jenn: does the Recycling and Waste Management Plan get incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan?

Matt: Yes, if it's complete by then, certain elements may be incorporated. After community visioning workshops, general themes will be identified and the comprehensive plan committee may come back to committees for more guidance.

Chrissy: How do zoning codes play into the Comprehensive Plan?

Matt: Zoning and land-use maps are a very important areas and should be consistent with each other (growth needs to be directed towards growth areas and away from rural areas)

Matt will also send more resources to Jay about state guidelines

Draft Outline of Waste Reduction/Management Plan:

Initial outline by Jamie

Jamie: Clarification & reminder: The goal was to produce a framework to take to the council to get their feedback in late February. With their feedback and after small group meetings, we'd come back to the Town Council with the full plan

Steve Wood: Does this committee get to the nitty-gritty of recycling programs, such as hauler?

Jay: You can make recommendations, research, but it needs to be approved by the Town Council.

Kay: How do we define short-term solid waste management? How long is this?

Juka: Is the landfill closing part of short-term or the long term management? Unsure of the politics and decision-making of where the trash will eventually go.

Jenn: worried that our document will quickly become a relic. The core of it should be universal, without a shelf life.

Steve Walker: Absolutely, the plan is in the right direction

Steve Wood: Is there a possibility to create a new landfill in the town?

Jay: Unlikely, permitting takes many years. There are 3 incinerators in the state, Lewiston, Portland.

Harry: We should Incorporate a reference to the Maine Solid Waste Hierarchy. A graphic was then suggested as well.

Chrissy & Harry: We need to hold ourselves to a high standard of definitions, as well as our goals. Waste to Energy is not recycling; varying definitions of “waste diversion,” should be parsed out as we move forward.

Chrissy: we should eventually have a glossary to define our standards

Harry: taking issue with term “source separation”. Sees the source as the point at which the consumer gets the products, not the point at which they are picked up by a hauler.

Jamie: “source separation” refers to separating waste at the curb (i.e. recyclables, trash and compost in separate bins), rather than at a facility, after the fact using separating technology.

Jamie: a new mixed waste facility newly started Hamden, Maine (only on in Maine)

Jamie: Kevin Roche advocated for continuing separating waste despite improvements in technology

Jenn: “source” can be defined as the curbs

Final guideline title: “Focus on Waste Separation at the Source”

Chrissy: values the act of separating waste into a number of bins, this acts as a regular audit.

Juka: Under “Support Community Education Efforts, “Almost no community solid waste education effort” should be switched to note some efforts are being made, but we need more.

Chrissy: Merrymeeting Beyond Plastic activist group exists to push towards a zero waste lifestyle

Framework Components Commentary:

Short-term: 1-3 years, anything greater is long-term

Jay: You should think of it as “post landfill,” now through landfill. Next landfill decisions will be made in the next 3-4 months, cannot wait until November or whenever the plan is closed

Kay: education around landfill closure is needed in the short-term

Jay: the landfill will probably continue to act as a transfer station for woody debris, shingles, etc. (still permitted) , however it is unclear if it will act as a larger transfer station

Jay: Year-long project reshape the mound to limit leaching

Permitting for transfer station is difficult because there are extensive processing regulations and rules about proximity to households, would be valuable to continue maintaining these solid waste management operations

Jay: strong financial reason to limit continued transfer of waste. We currently don't have a permit to transfer trash. April 2021: landfill closure

Marie: clarification on moving from Non-Organics to Solid Waste (SW) language?

Jamie: Solid Waste is meant to encompass all of it

Discussion of whether 2 Public Education & 3 Organics Management should be subheadings in the long and short term management plans

Steve Weems: These two deserve to be emphasized as their own sections Jamie concurs

Addition of Public Policy as a Framework Component:

Chrissy: public policy recommendations are a tool to get to waste management goals, in the same way that public education or organics management

Motion by Harry, seconded by Juka, to remove previous 4 study areas and insert the four recommended by the outline writers (Jenn, Jamie, Steve Weems).

All but Jamie voted in favor

1. Jamie: believes policy works into the guiding principles, should remain limited to 4
2. Steve Weems then removed his vote in favor

Discussion and agreement that the original three writers will make all proposed changes, then forward the completed outline to the Town Council for consideration at their meeting of Feb 18, and shared with the Recycling Committee members.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb 25 at 6:30, may be in Room 117

Meeting adjourned at 8:45