

**Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 - 6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**Room 117 Town Hall**

**Present:**

Committee members: 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

**Absent:**

Chrissy Adamowicz

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

**Approval of Minutes From January 28, 2020:**

Request by Harry to URL to the location of the Minutes on the Town Website.

**Action:** Jay to provide the URL

**Motion:** by Harry Hopcroft to accept minutes,  
Motion seconded by Kay Mann

*Motion approved. Unanimous vote of those present.*

**Committee Communications**

Communications: Chair (Jenn) receives communication first and will then be shared with the rest of the committee. Jenn will facilitate dialogue in order to avoid mass emails to the whole group. Will allow for a more complete record of committee communications.

Decision Making: By consensus for internal workings, but decisions affecting the outcome of the Committee work needs a formal vote.

**Comprehensive Plan Update:**

Kay, Juka, Jamie, Harry, and Stephen Wood attended meetings or workshops. Those who attended provided thoughts:

- Emphasis on adaptation rather than mitigation of effects of climate change
- No real mention of recycling or sustainability in workshops even though our work overlaps primarily over repurposing of landfill.
- Need to revive the old Climate Action Plan and incorporate the greenhouse gas emission of landfilling waste. Committee members should have access to the current Climate Action Plan.
- Sustainability is important to the Comp Plan as part of land use policy.

**Action:** Jay will add Climate Action Plan link to the Recycling & Sustainability Committee Web page on the Town site.

**Recycling & Sustainability Committee Focus on Climate Change:**

- Planning Dept is requesting a \$100,000 placeholder in budget to address town's carbon footprint. It is unlikely that Climate Action Plan will be integrated into the Comp. Plan based on timelines
- Committee should be advocating for Climate Action Planning
- Brunswick currently approaching Climate Change as a separate entity.

**Motion:** made by Jamie Ecker to write a letter to the Plan Brunswick Steering Committee asking them to include a section on climate impacts in each section of the Comp. Plan. Goal is essentially asking the Plan Brunswick Steering Committee to view Comp Plan through a climate lense.

Discussion:

Part of this communication would also share that the Recycling and Sustainability Committee committee is available to assist and be an ally and resource.

Motion seconded by Kay Mann

*Motion approved: Unanimous vote of those present.*

**Motion:** by Jenn Hicks to assign Steve Weems & Kay Mann to work on developing the letter.

Motion seconded by Jamie Eckert

*Motion approved: Unanimous vote of those present*

**Motion:** by Kay Mann to create a fifth sub-committee devoted to working on the Comprehensive Plan, in addition to subcommittees for the waste management plan.

Motion seconded by Steve Weems

Discussion

Letter would be one of the first deliverables of this committee

**Motion Tabled** until discussion of subgroups for the waste management plan

**Budget priorities for Department of Public Works:**

- If approved, funds available July 1st - June 30
- Presentation by the Finance Committee for the draft budget. Thursday, March 26, 6:30
- Major budget item is a placeholder for a recycling internship: Recognition that there's no staff working on recycling (mostly outreach and public education to reduce contamination). \$1000-\$1200 for outreach materials for recycling that could be used in a public education program.

- A quarter of the next fiscal year will be impacted by having to close the landfill. Although landfill is covered by Enterprise Fund monies: any explicit landfill costs will not be included in this budget process.
- Parks & Rec budget included funding allocated for recycling bins on Maine St, but no compost money in the budget.

**Action:** Jay will share the budget draft with the committee

**Solid Waste Reduction & Management Plan Discussion:**

- Jenn Hicks & Jamie Ecker to provide a presentation highlighting major areas of focus & principles of the waste reduction/management plan to Town Council on March 2.
- Emphasis on a short term plan by April, taking priority over other elements of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
  - Short term significant decisions regarding the landfill and use of that space will have to be made such that we don't unknowingly cut-off options (i.e. what existing materials are we going to accept at the landfill site)
- Short term solid waste management is integrated into long-term. Both need to be planned together.
- Committee will take over work of Solid Waste Task Force

**Action:** Jay will share documents from Solid Waste Task Force discussion - last report was from 2016.

- Jamie proposed holding a public workshop in March to understand what options are available in the short term, getting more knowledgeable about waste management in general. Committee agrees.

**Action:** Jenn will organize workshop (day, time place) before next committee meeting & provide what questions you want to be addressed, publicizing it.

- Department of Public Works needs to know ASAP what should be kept at the transfer station (expand to trash and recycling swap, swap shop?) in order to allocate space. DEP is weighing in on space allocation and there will be a lot of construction and these purposes can be folded in.

**Action:** Committee members review the **list** of what is already done at the landfill on Brunswick website: [www.brunswickme.org/263/Landfill](http://www.brunswickme.org/263/Landfill).

- Jamie proposes scheduling tours of EcoMaine: Waste to Energy Plant & Recycling facility tour and MidMaine Waste Action Plant (+Casella facility).

**Action:** Jamie Ecker will set up tours and notify committee of the dates

**Other Business:**

March 10, 5:30 at CEI, E2Tech is having a meeting with the leader of the US Green Building Council

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. **Meeting adjourned at 8:40**