

MINUTES RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 22 MAR 22

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Steve Weems at 5:00 PM. Personal introduction provided by each person in attendance.

Members present: Steve Weems (Vice Chairman), Harry Hopcroft, Stephen Wood, Jennifer Hicks (Secretary), Chrissy Adamowicz, Thomas Rumpf

Absent members: Jamie Ecker (chairman)

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

Public present: Bill Good, Rep. Poppy Arford

Call to Order / Intros

Minutes from Feb 22, 2022: Tom Rumpf moves to accept with 1 change: remove action item about checking about grant deadline and add update with grant deadline. Steve Wood seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

Open Committee Positions – Steve Weems

Supposed to be a committee of 9 voting members currently have 7. One applicant is in the “pipeline” for placement on the committee. Still in need of another candidate to fill the 9th seat. Weems asked that the members spread the word about the opening.

Solid Waste Update – Steve Weems, Jay Astle

Ecomaine/Casella agreements and the upcoming Town Council Mtg

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.

Report from Jay Astle: The town staff will present the lowest cost numbers possible to work with ecomaine. Have a revised proposal from Cassella and just received numbers from ecomaine and have to reconcile those one last time before the proposal is ready to present to town. This is a 10 year contract for both vendors. This is not a proposal for Brunswick to become an ecomaine owner. Membership discussion is on a separate track and could be something that could happen during the 10 year contract. Best case scenario to start with ecomaine July 1, 2022. There are early discussions about setting up check-in periods with Cassella to ensure compliance with the contract. Those additions to the agreement with Cassella will be TBD.

Organics Subcommittee Report - Chrissy Adamowicz, Eliza Blood

The opening of the 2nd organics recycling drop off at the Brunswick Recreation Center will be in mid April.

Town organics recycling goal - 30% of food waste is diverted using a 3-prong approach: curbside, drop off, and backyard composting.

The DEP grant funding covers:

125 compost bins, 150 kitchen buckets for sale at a discount

Pay intern to further develop program and get the word out, conduct a survey of residents
Education materials

Report from Eliza Blood:

- Contacting experts in Maine to build network (knowledgeable people, connected to community groups)
- Created social media accounts: Instagram, Twitter, Nextdoor
- Working on brochure and slideshow for presentations to the community/tabling events
- Press release to go out in April announcing the award of grant funds, Eliza's hiring, and the upcoming opportunities
- Scheduling events, creating calendar for spring/summer
- Work plans for April - continue scheduling community outreach opportunities and starting to ramp up public education, ordering bins for sale in May, promoting compost drop off.

Organics recycling subcommittee will help Eliza determine where to focus outreach opportunities for the next several months.

Is there a contamination concern among the public: Garbage to Gardens service provides compost back to customers - does not take sludge or commercial organic waste...completely household so concern is low with contamination. Agricycle is different - don't know if there is a contamination issue as they do take a wider amount of materials.

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.

Tasks:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory for entire town
- Launch technical and educational service to introduce town residents to ways to reduce their carbon footprint
- Establish a Municipal Utility District (midcoast utility district already exists)

Maine Climate Action Grant Deadline: 2nd round deadline September 20th

Tom Rumpf moves to adjourn, Chrissy Adamowicz seconds.

Adjournment - 6:15 PM