

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee Meeting
March 23rd, 2021
Meeting via Zoom 5:00- 7:00pm

Members present: Jamie Ecker (chair), Jenn Hicks (vice-chair), Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Stephen Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Dieuwke Zolas, Elise Hocking

Staff present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Steve Walker (District 2 Town Council)

Guests: Bill Goods (resident)

Call to order: by the chair at 5:02pm

Introduction made by all members of the R&S committee.

Introduction and review of the agenda by the chair

Motion: to approve the minutes from January 26, 2021 moved by Stephen Wood, 2nd by Harry Hopcroft, unanimously approved.

Motion: to approve the minutes from February 23rd, 2021 moved by Kay Mann, 2nd by Harry Hopcroft, Unanimously approved.

Staff update: Jay Astle

- Landfill closure April 1st, 2021. No more trash will be accepted. Discussion currently to modify the list of what will be accepted at the landfill?
- Starting April 1st, 2021, trash collected curbside will be taken to West Bath by Casella, trash not collected curbside needs to be taken to the transfer station in West Bath. The facility is open to the general public, it is primarily a commercial facility, West Bath and Brunswick residents
- Bag fees will continue
- Workshop Zoom meeting with the Town Council March 22nd, 2021, full R&S committee present and reviewed. Town Council to vote on waste disposal budget item April 5th, 2021: contracting with Casella or Eco-Maine? Both companies aware of the process.

Action: Jay to discuss the proposed Public Works budget with the Town on March 25th, 2021. Intern for the Public Works requested.

Maine DEP waste reduction /Recycling grant application: Call for grant application came out last week for residential organic recycling.

Goal:

- Financial support for home composting bins
- Financial support for kitchen caddies
- Build a 2nd drop off place for organics
- Dedicated summer organics intern for public promotion

Town would meet 25% grant cost-share requirement through Public Works staff labor, assembly of the drop off kiosk and the citizen share of the compost bins and kitchen caddies.

Action: C. Adamowics, J. Hicks and J. Ecker to finalize application which needs Town Council approval before April 5th Town Council meeting

Updated committee charter:

Discussion: latest draft of the charter discussed and changes agreed on. Committee called Recycling & Sustainability committee.

Motion: To approve the discussed changes to the charter. Moved by Kay Mann, 2nd by Steve Weems. Approved unanimously

Solar energy sub-committee: Steve Weems (chair)

School and Town collaborate on solar energy initiative emailed by S Weems to the superintendent and the town manager to review the options of:

- Katie Furbish and BHS are built to have their own solar panels on the buildings
- the other school buildings and municipal buildings to contract with a solar developer.

Presently the school administration and the Town are in discussion. The superintendent is setting up a school sustainability committee.

Action: J. Esker to reach out to the superintendent to build a bridge with the Recycling& Sustainability committee and to find a new liaison with the BHS environmental club.

Other business and Announcements:

J. Hicks to create a folder for all recycle educational material for all members of the R&S committee to have access to.

Jay Astle has been in touch with the business operational manager of biodiesel. The Brunswick town municipal buildings use natural gas. There may be room for a limited project. Jay to continue to follow.

Jenn Hicks, Jamie Ecker and Steve Weems met with Alex Anesko who was a member of the R&S committee and had a GHG emission study done 10 years ago.

Public comments: Bill Good stated he had followed the Workshop meeting 3/22/21

Meeting adjourned: motion by Jamie Ecker, 2nd by Stephen Wood. Meeting ended 6.45pm.