

MINUTES
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
26 APR 2022

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.

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 normal. Currently looking for two more members to fill vacancies. One application has already been submitted. Jamie asks the committee to get the word out. .

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 numbers

Current Subcommittees: Public Education, Organics Recycling, Solid Waste Options, Energy. Committee should revisit the make-up and focus of the subcommittee. Jamie to work with Steve Weems on subcommittee assignments.

Solid Waste Update – Steve Weems, Jay Astle

Report from Jay Astle: Working with a July 1 start date with ecomaine. Have the newest contract from ecomaine and is being reviewed by the town lawyer. Draft town budget process is ongoing and public works has presented a budget proposal to the Town Council. Has included recycling position in FY 22-23 and all relevant costs associated with ecomaine.

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 that the town will sell have been ordered.
- Eliza developing a presentation for scheduled public education programs. Coming into a less “quiet” phase with social media posts.
- 2nd food waste drop off site at Recreation Center on airbase to open by mid May.

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).

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. Ecomaine will have web-based education resources.

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)

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

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